Yahoo Group Archive: draker8b

Yahoo Group summary: The Drake R8B Group

These Yahoo Groups messages were archived in WARC format by ArchiveTeam in 2017. This PDF was generated by Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications from the WARC files in 2026.

Date span: 2004-12-19 through 2017-01-26

Source WARC: draker8b.YcrRsLH.warc.gz

Source item: https://archive.org/details/yahoo-groups-2017-07-26T06-58-05Z-a551b7

Messages included in this PDF: 89

Yahoo replaced the domain portions of email addresses with @... in the archived messages. Characters lost in Yahoo's archived text appear as ?.

Messages are presented in ascending Yahoo message-ID order. Gaps indicate records absent from the source WARC or messages omitted from this PDF as spam.

1. Need recommendations from current users

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2004-12-19 08:06:29 UTC
From: Jim
Topic: 1 Message: 1

I currently use a Kenwood R-2000 and R-5000. My interests are in the Maritime bands and International Broadcasts. Currently useing longwire antennas, upto 200 feet. I am located in St. Paul, MN.

I am considering another receiver and it would be the R8B or the NRD-545. Having no experience with either, I would like to get opinions from the people who have used them.

From what I have learned so far the R8B needs either headphones or an outboard speaker to get good sound quality, such as clear voices. Have heard it has a low bass sound to the voice quality. What are your feelings? As for the NRD-545 I have heard it is also poor on voice transmissions and is geared more toward beacon and code work.

Is this the general feeling from the people that use them? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Jim

2. Re: Need recommendations from current users

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2004-12-21 20:04:19 UTC
From: driftermick
Topic: 1 Message: 2

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "Jim" <jetten@i...> wrote:
Hello to Jim and the group.
Lets see if we can't get some activity going in this new group.
the R8B does sound a little bassie. as for most table-top radios,
it's matching speaker is not much better than the on board. the
R8B is tied with my AOR-7030+ for number 1 radio here. the aor
is highly moded. the R8B really doesn't need any mods. it's tops
as it comes from Drake. a little personal info here; also have
the sat800, used for local and international broadcast. i know,
it's a big/luggable, what ever radio. i just like it's looks and
the sound from the on board speaker. also have too many portables.
some where, between 18 or 20. my favs are the sw77 and the 7600gr
sony. any who, lets get back to the question. after many, too many
years of tubers, which always sounded great, i got the AOR. if you
have ever seen one, it's small, with a small speaker. it sounds OK.
but, i'm 55, and the old ears aren't what they use to be. i posted
the question on usenet, rec.radio.shortwave. got a lot of replys. i
don't want to use comp. speakers. the younger guys use the cambridge
comp speakers. guess their good, i don't like the looks of them. the
older guys, like me like the older out board speakers from the old
tubers. the main Drake guru on the group uses a speaker from a drake
7. (little hard to find) some used radio shack speakers. to each his
own i guess. i hit about 6 or 7 ham fest each summer, and i found
nothing i wanted to use. about sept. i was looking around eham at
a few items and found "Sounds Sweet" speakers. sounds corney. i read
the reports and ended up ordering one. the man makes them in his
garage, and has "money-back", if you don't like it. to make a too
long story shorter, they do sound sweet. they are big, and black,
and look good in my shack. the sound is great. do a google and check
out his website. don't know or care what the freq responce is, i like
the sound. i have 2 right now, and will be buying a third soon. one
on the aor and the R8B. big difference. both radios drive the speaker
well. i can DX and the sound does not tire me, if you know what i
mean. makes the drake sound super. as for the 545D, i have not used
one. but, a lot of your questions can be answered on eHam. good info
there. i have been looking at the 545D. always looking for that best
radio. who knows, could be next. i highly reccomend the Drake R8B.
it's a great DX machine. and it's good out of the box. but, i do
like to fool around under the lid. i know of no mods for the R8B,
and, maybe it doesn't need any. i'm looking forward to this new
group becoming vary active. we have a lot of owners out there. we
just need to get the word out about this new group...
Drifter...
>
> I currently use a Kenwood R-2000 and R-5000. My interests are in

the
> Maritime bands and International Broadcasts. Currently useing
> longwire antennas, upto 200 feet. I am located in St. Paul, MN.
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> I am considering another receiver and it would be the R8B or the
> NRD-545. Having no experience with either, I would like to get
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> outboard speaker to get good sound quality, such as clear voices.
> Have heard it has a low bass sound to the voice quality. What are
> your feelings? As for the NRD-545 I have heard it is also poor on
> voice transmissions and is geared more toward beacon and code
work.
>
> Is this the general feeling from the people that use them? Any help
> would be greatly appreciated.
>
> Jim

3. Re: Need recommendations from current users

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2004-12-22 16:52:07 UTC
From: Jim
Topic: 1 Message: 3

Drifter,

Thanks for the reply and will look for those speakers. I ordered the
R8B today after all of the research. Sounds to be a great unit.
Thanks again for the help.
Jim

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "driftermick" <driftermick@y...> wrote:
>
> --- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "Jim" <jetten@i...> wrote:
> Hello to Jim and the group.
> Lets see if we can't get some activity going in this new group.
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> R8B is tied with my AOR-7030+ for number 1 radio here. the aor
> is highly moded. the R8B really doesn't need any mods. it's tops
> as it comes from Drake. a little personal info here; also have
> the sat800, used for local and international broadcast. i know,
> it's a big/luggable, what ever radio. i just like it's looks and
> the sound from the on board speaker. also have too many portables.
> some where, between 18 or 20. my favs are the sw77 and the 7600gr
> sony. any who, lets get back to the question. after many, too many
> years of tubers, which always sounded great, i got the AOR. if you
> have ever seen one, it's small, with a small speaker. it sounds OK.
> but, i'm 55, and the old ears aren't what they use to be. i posted
> the question on usenet, rec.radio.shortwave. got a lot of replys. i
> don't want to use comp. speakers. the younger guys use the cambridge
> comp speakers. guess their good, i don't like the looks of them. the
> older guys, like me like the older out board speakers from the old
> tubers. the main Drake guru on the group uses a speaker from a drake
> 7. (little hard to find) some used radio shack speakers. to each his
> own i guess. i hit about 6 or 7 ham fest each summer, and i found
> nothing i wanted to use. about sept. i was looking around eham at
> a few items and found "Sounds Sweet" speakers. sounds corney. i read
> the reports and ended up ordering one. the man makes them in his
> garage, and has "money-back", if you don't like it. to make a too
> long story shorter, they do sound sweet. they are big, and black,
> and look good in my shack. the sound is great. do a google and check
> out his website. don't know or care what the freq responce is, i like
> the sound. i have 2 right now, and will be buying a third soon. one
> on the aor and the R8B. big difference. both radios drive the speaker
> well. i can DX and the sound does not tire me, if you know what i
> mean. makes the drake sound super. as for the 545D, i have not used
> one. but, a lot of your questions can be answered on eHam. good info
> there. i have been looking at the 545D. always looking for that best

> radio. who knows, could be next. i highly reccomend the Drake R8B.
> it's a great DX machine. and it's good out of the box. but, i do
> like to fool around under the lid. i know of no mods for the R8B,
> and, maybe it doesn't need any. i'm looking forward to this new
> group becoming vary active. we have a lot of owners out there. we
> just need to get the word out about this new group...
> Drifter...
> >
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> > Maritime bands and International Broadcasts. Currently useing
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> > outboard speaker to get good sound quality, such as clear voices.
> > Have heard it has a low bass sound to the voice quality. What are
> > your feelings? As for the NRD-545 I have heard it is also poor on
> > voice transmissions and is geared more toward beacon and code
> work.
> >
> > Is this the general feeling from the people that use them? Any help
> > would be greatly appreciated.
> >
> > Jim

4. Re: Need recommendations from current users

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2004-12-22 17:38:23 UTC
From: renopithicus
Topic: 1 Message: 4

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "driftermick" <driftermick@y...>
wrote:

[snip]

about sept. i was looking around eham at
> a few items and found "Sounds Sweet" speakers. sounds corney. i
read
> the reports and ended up ordering one. the man makes them in his
> garage, and has "money-back", if you don't like it. to make a too
> long story shorter, they do sound sweet. they are big, and black,
> and look good in my shack. the sound is great. do a google and
check
> out his website. don't know or care what the freq responce is, i
like
> the sound. i have 2 right now, and will be buying a third soon. one
> on the aor and the R8B. big difference. both radios drive the
speaker
> well. i can DX and the sound does not tire me, if you know what i
> mean. makes the drake sound super. as for the 545D, i have not used
> one.
[snip]
> Drifter...

Hi Drifter,

I'm very curious about the Sounds Sweet speaker. I read the reviews on eham.net. Most of the reviews were glowing, but there were a few that were not so good, including one by someone who sounded pretty knowledgeable and who took the Sounds Sweet speaker apart. Of course, this person may just have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed....you never know.

Do you find that voices become more intelligible with the Sounds Sweet speaker? If so, does it improve the sound of both AM broadcasts and SSB? I'm thinking about buying one.

Steve

5. Re: Need recommendations from current users

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2004-12-24 13:28:16 UTC
From: driftermick
Topic: 1 Message: 5

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--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "renopithicus" <sdaniel13@n...>
wrote:
>
> --- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "driftermick" <driftermick@y...>
> wrote:
>
> [snip]
>
> about sept. i was looking around eham at
> > a few items and found "Sounds Sweet" speakers. sounds corney. i
> read
> > the reports and ended up ordering one. the man makes them in his
> > garage, and has "money-back", if you don't like it. to make a too
> > long story shorter, they do sound sweet. they are big, and black,
> > and look good in my shack. the sound is great. do a google and
> check
> > out his website. don't know or care what the freq responce is, i
> like
> > the sound. i have 2 right now, and will be buying a third soon.
one
> > on the aor and the R8B. big difference. both radios drive the
> speaker
> > well. i can DX and the sound does not tire me, if you know what i
> > mean. makes the drake sound super. as for the 545D, i have not
used
> > one.
> [snip]
> > Drifter...
>
> Hi Drifter,
>
> I'm very curious about the Sounds Sweet speaker. I read the reviews
> on eham.net. Most of the reviews were glowing, but there were a few
> that were not so good, including one by someone who sounded pretty
> knowledgeable and who took the Sounds Sweet speaker apart. Of
> course, this person may just have gotten up on the wrong side of
the
> bed....you never know.
>
> Do you find that voices become more intelligible with the Sounds
> Sweet speaker? If so, does it improve the sound of both AM
> broadcasts and SSB? I'm thinking about buying one.
>
> Steve
```

Hi Steve, and Happy Holidays.

Yes , i feel the speaker improves both broadcast AM and SSB. as for CW, don't know, haven't copied code sence the 60s. as i said in my last post, the old ears aren't as good as they use to be. i'm no stero -phyle (sp?), can't hear above 5 or 6 k. sometimes harsh sounds, like from a portable, is tiring after a while. this speaker cures that. a few of my ham and swl friends got one after listening to mine. all i can say is try it, you can always get your money back. or, post to one of the ham news groups/ swl groups and see what others have to say. btw, Stan, at radio covers, makes a cover for this speaker. Stan's another home businessmen. great covers. highly reccomend him. got his covers on everything here. hope everyone here has a great Xmas... Drifter...

7. Anyone Have Attic Antenna Design

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2005-01-14 22:19:34 UTC
From: tbrosnahanhughes
Topic: 7 Message: 7

Anyone have a design for a simple attic antenna that covers the R8B range? I have about 20 feet straight run in both directions.

Thanks,

Tom

8. ScanCat & Other Software Controls:

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2005-04-29 03:09:09 UTC
From: spindlecat1
Topic: 8 Message: 8

Has anyone here tried ScanCat or other computer software to control
their R8B through the serial port? Seems to me this would at least be
a
way to get spectrum analysis from the Drake onto a screen... I've got
the R8B and am thinking about starting with it in computer control.
Thank you!

9. Intro / S-Meter Question

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2005-08-14 22:42:15 UTC
From: hidesertscanner
Topic: 9 Message: 9

Quick intro from Lancaster, CA:

I have an R8B with a 70-foot "longwire" run a few feet above the apex of my roof. I use the rig to pull in MW BCB, hams, and shortwave. I'm currently trying to log my first SW pirate - no luck yet.

I have a question about the S-meter. How some when you turn RF gain down, the S-meter goes up? Seems like it should be the opposite. I guess I don't quite understand the relationship between the two.

10. question about color display

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2005-10-28 08:29:35 UTC
From: dutoit
Topic: 10 Message: 10

Hello,

I was wondering if the original display of the R8B was greenish, then turned to yellow in later production models.

Any information on this?

Thanks

11. Re: question about color display

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2005-10-28 10:16:13 UTC
From: driftermick
Topic: 10 Message: 11

nope, or, not that i know of. my R8/A/B all have the same color
display. a year or 3 ago a few posters on- rec.radio shortwave-
changed leds/ or added filters to the display. radiolabs was
offering blue displays with their super-398, kind of a fad.
i guess you could make it any color you wanted. post to
r.r.sw with this question, a few drake experts hang out there.
Drifter...

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "dutoit" <dutoit@y...> wrote:
>
> Hello,
>
> I was wondering if the original display of the R8B was greenish, then
> turned to yellow in later production models.
>
> Any information on this?
>
> Thanks
>

12. Re: question about color display

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2005-10-29 06:01:25 UTC
From: dutoit
Topic: 10 Message: 12

Thanks for the reply.

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "driftermick" <driftermick@y...>
wrote:
>
> nope, or, not that i know of. my R8/A/B all have the same color
> display. a year or 3 ago a few posters on- rec.radio shortwave-
> changed leds/ or added filters to the display. radiolabs was
> offering blue displays with their super-398, kind of a fad.
> i guess you could make it any color you wanted. post to
> r.r.sw with this question, a few drake experts hang out there.
> Drifter...
>
>
> --- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "dutoit" <dutoit@y...> wrote:
> >
> > Hello,
> >
> > I was wondering if the original display of the R8B was greenish,
then
> > turned to yellow in later production models.
> >
> > Any information on this?
> >
> > Thanks
> >
>

13. Sangean Super 909 sounds better than my Drake R8B!

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2005-12-01 01:39:41 UTC
From: dklueck
Topic: 13 Message: 13

Why? I recently brought my R8B home from my cottage (in Door County, WI) where I have a 70' inverted L (random wire) antenna, to my home (in Green Bay, WI) where I just attached a quick random wire. I have a Radio Labs (Sangeon) Super ATS 909 attached to a RadioMaster P30 (end-fed) antenna at home also. I've tried the R8B with the P30 antenna (attached to the
50 ohm antenna connection) but it actually sounds better with a random wire attached to the 500 ohm antenna connection.

Bottom line, my Sangean (Radio Labs) ATS Super 909 actually sounds better than my Drake R8B!!! The R8B has a LOT of background noise, which I don't hear on my 909. I've tried an RF chock on the R8B power cable, to no avail. I never noticed the background noise at my cottage, which has underground utilities and is out in the country. Something about being in
the city makes my R8B awful to listen to!

I know that propagation is bad, but you'd think it would affect the ATS-909 too. What is going on that a $300 radio sounds better than a $1500 radio? I've tried ALL the settings on the R8B to improve the sound (Sync, Offset, Notch, NB, AGC, etc.) but cannot fix the noise!

HELP ?!?!

14. Re: Sangean Super 909 sounds better than my Drake R8B!

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2005-12-09 14:42:22 UTC
From: renopithicus
Topic: 13 Message: 14

Have you tried the R8B in a number of different locations in your house? Are you using it close to a computer or other electronic device?

Steve

16. New file uploaded to draker8b

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-04-18 09:17:31 UTC
From: draker8b@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 16 Message: 16

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the draker8b
group.

File : /Quick_Reference_R8B.pdf
Uploaded by : logearst <franz.bruhns@...>
Description : Quick Reference for R8B

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/draker8b/files/Quick_Reference_R8B.pdf

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/groups/files

Regards,

logearst <franz.bruhns@...>

17. R8B too good?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-05-07 02:07:45 UTC
From: epiphone1001
Topic: 17 Message: 17

I'm kind of surprised that there is so little activity on this forum.
That may be because the R8B is such a good piece of gear. There is
little to say about it, no mods to discuss, and maybe no problems.
What gives?

18. RE: [draker8b] R8B too good?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-05-07 02:58:25 UTC
From: John
Topic: 17 Message: 18

Reply: very few problems that I heard of. Couple of radios I had a problem with the preamp transistor. And a couple I heard of with the encoder. Nothing serious. And there are no mod offerings that I am aware of. I think the original R8 benefited from the Sherwood Sync detector mod, but the R8B's sync is improved to the point the Sherwood probably wouldn't improve it much. Just about everything is good to excellent about the R8B. The only thing that annoys me about it is the multi function buttons -- not too ergonomic. However computer control software mitigates that.

I suspect you are right, it is so good overall there is nothing to write about. One very active group is the shortwave antenna group. I always read that one since the main way to make any radio better is to have the best possible antenna for your circumstances.

John

I'm kind of surprised that there is so little activity on this forum. That may be because the R8B is such a good piece of gear. There is little to say about it, no mods to discuss, and maybe no problems. What gives?

--
No virus found in this outgoing message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.1.392 / Virus Database: 268.5.5/333 - Release Date: 5/5/2006

19. RE: [draker8b] R8B too good?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-05-07 05:54:13 UTC
From: Woodmen
Topic: 17 Message: 19

Shoot,

I paid too much for mine to be looking for troubles.

One thing I would like to know is how long the battery should hold the clock settings, under normal circumstances. We had a power outage here, and seems like the "powerlos" message was awfully sudden.

I would also like a source for a replacement tuning knob. I've bought a couple of accessory knobs in the past, but the source has dried up.

Thanks,

Chuck
Texas

Reply: very few problems that I heard of. Couple of radios I had a problem with the preamp transistor. And a couple I heard of with the encoder. Nothing serious. And there are no mod offerings that I am aware of. I think the original R8 benefited from the Sherwood Sync detector mod, but the R8B's sync is improved to the point the Sherwood probably wouldn't improve it much. Just about everything is good to excellent about the R8B. The only thing that annoys me about it is the multi function buttons -- not too ergonomic. However computer control software mitigates that.

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No virus found in this outgoing message.
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Version: 7.1.392 / Virus Database: 268.5.5/333 - Release Date: 5/5/2006

Yahoo! Groups Links

20. New file uploaded to draker8b

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-05-11 08:00:56 UTC
From: draker8b@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 16 Message: 20

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the draker8b
group.

File : /DRAKE_R8B_Battery.pdf
Uploaded by : logearst <franz.bruhns@...>
Description : R8B and the Battery Backed-up Memory

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/draker8b/files/DRAKE_R8B_Battery.pdf

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/groups/files

Regards,

logearst <franz.bruhns@...>

21. Re: R8B too good?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-05-11 16:43:37 UTC
From: renopithicus
Topic: 17 Message: 21

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--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "epiphone1001" <rhbraun@...> wrote:
>
> I'm kind of surprised that there is so little activity on this forum.
> That may be because the R8B is such a good piece of gear. There is
> little to say about it, no mods to discuss, and maybe no problems.
> What gives?
>

I actually think you're onto something. The R8B is an excellent
receiver for so many purposes. I don't think that people have found it
to need any special modifications to do what they want it to do, and
it is relatively low maintenance.
```

23. FineWare control programs for R8B

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-05-15 17:51:13 UTC
From: rogerasman2@aol.com
Topic: 23 Message: 23

I have used both Smart R8 Control 32 and Smart Audio Control 32 programs for some time but recently upgraded my computer from Win 98 SE to Win XP and can no longer use them. I do, however, have copies of them from when they were being used with Win 98. They required special installation codes which at the time were only good for 24 or 48 hours. Mark Fine no longer has anything to do with these programs so he won't help. Do any users have suggestions ? My E-Mail addresses are:
rcadrakereceiver@... (mailto:rcadrakereceiver@...) or _rogeras
man2@..._ (mailto:rogerasman2@...)
Roger Asman

p.s.
I plan to attend the Drake Forum at Dayton this coming weekend.
rca

24. Smart Audio Control 32 from Fine Ware

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-07-13 17:41:53 UTC
From: rogerasman2@aol.com
Topic: 24 Message: 24

I recently converted my computer from Win 98 to Win XP. I then copied 2-Fine Ware programs for my R8B, that I have used for a long time, from my old hard drive to my new hard drive. The Smart R8 Control receiver program works perfectly however the Smart Audio only worked for about a week and then stopped, it will come up on the screen but won't display anything on any of it's individual screens (water fall, oscilloscope,etc). My original sound card, a Sound Blaster 128 PCI, works well on everything else that I have on my computer. Mark Fine no longer services or handles these 2-programs and won't answer any questions concerning them. Does anyone have any suggestions ?
Sincerely,
Roger Asman

25. RE: [draker8b] Smart Audio Control 32 from Fine Ware

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-07-13 21:20:34 UTC
From: Woodmen
Topic: 24 Message: 25

Hi Roger,
My bet is the program is a 16 bit product that would run OK on Windows 98. XP isn't going to like anything less than 32. Since Windows XP updates constantly it may have updated a file that changed something Smart Audio needs. I would try uninstalling it, then run a registry cleaner (like the one in Fix It Utilities) and reinstall it. I'd make a backup of my drive beforehand. Good luck.

Chuck
-----Original Message-----
From: draker8b@yahoogroups.com [mailto:draker8b@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of rogerasman2@...
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 12:42 PM
To: draker8b@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [draker8b] Smart Audio Control 32 from Fine Ware

I recently converted my computer from Win 98 to Win XP. I then copied 2-Fine Ware programs for my R8B, that I have used for a long time, from my old hard drive to my new hard drive. The Smart R8 Control receiver program works perfectly however the Smart Audio only worked for about a week and then stopped, it will come up on the screen but won't display anything on any of it's individual screens (water fall, oscilloscope,etc). My original sound card, a Sound Blaster 128 PCI, works well on everything else that I have on my computer. Mark Fine no longer services or handles these 2-programs and won't answer any questions concerning them. Does anyone have any suggestions ?
Sincerely,
Roger Asman

28. EUROPEAN AMPLITUDE MODULATION AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-09-10 12:59:06 UTC
From: gvastianos
Topic: 28 Message: 28

EUROPEAN AMPLITUDE MODULATION AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

NEW YAHOO GROUP: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eamarg/

This is a group for licenced amateur radio operators (HAMs) who are interested in the AMPLITUDE MODULATION (AM) mode of communications. The group exists to promote the AM operation in the HAM bands and provide information about operating events and technical matters.

EAMARG encourages regional AM activity insuring there is AM available somewhere on the amateur bands. Based on the fact that the majority of the AM calling frequencies in USA belong outside the european HF bandplans... one of the EAMARG main goals is to help in the establishment of AM calling frequencies that will be compatible with the HF bandplans of the european countries.

EAMARG future plans including the sponsorship of operating events and contests that will promote the use of Amplitude Modulation.

In order to join this group YOU MUST BE a licenced radio amateur. Only membership requests that include name and valid callsign will be accepted.

29. Re: Smart Audio Control 32 from Fine Ware

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2006-11-29 16:29:23 UTC
From: dklueck
Topic: 24 Message: 29

Try downloading from this link. I believe it is the 32 bit version.

http://www.qrz.com/download/controls/smw32_32.zip

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "Woodmen" <woodmenmga@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Roger,
> My bet is the program is a 16 bit product that would run OK on Windows 98.
> XP isn't going to like anything less than 32. Since Windows XP updates
> constantly it may have updated a file that changed something Smart Audio
> needs. I would try uninstalling it, then run a registry cleaner (like the
> one in Fix It Utilities) and reinstall it. I'd make a backup of my drive
> beforehand. Good luck.
>
> Chuck
> -----Original Message-----
> From: draker8b@yahoogroups.com [mailto:draker8b@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf
> Of rogerasman2@...
> Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 12:42 PM
> To: draker8b@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [draker8b] Smart Audio Control 32 from Fine Ware
>
>
>
> I recently converted my computer from Win 98 to Win XP. I then copied
> 2-Fine Ware programs for my R8B, that I have used for a long time, from my
> old hard drive to my new hard drive. The Smart R8 Control receiver program
> works perfectly however the Smart Audio only worked for about a week and
> then stopped, it will come up on the screen but won't display anything on
> any of it's individual screens (water fall, oscilloscope,etc). My original
> sound card, a Sound Blaster 128 PCI, works well on everything else that I
> have on my computer. Mark Fine no longer services or handles these
> 2-programs and won't answer any questions concerning them. Does anyone have
> any suggestions ?
> Sincerely,
> Roger Asman
>

30. looking for antenna

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-01-20 21:31:07 UTC
From: Chad
Topic: 30 Message: 30

Hello everyone and happy New Year! This is my first post here, and I'm quite sure it wont be my last.

I am very green to this hobby. I have always been fascinated with DX radio and finally have the time and money to get involved in it. I started BIG. I just bought an R8B for my first receiver. I live in a small condo in Northern Arizona (Flagstaff) I am surrounded by tall mountains and the elevation at my house is 8,200 Feet.

I am looking for the best antenna for my buck at around $200.00. My main listening interests are utility stations. This antenna must be able to withstand winds of 60 mph +, and not be too much of an eyesore.

Any feedback will be greatly appreciated.

Chad

31. WTB: Drake R-8B with VHF and 10 kHz

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-01-29 21:05:36 UTC
From: ldighera
Topic: 31 Message: 31

I've been away from SWLing for a while, and I'm looking for a good Drake R-8B with VHF converter and 10 kHz. If you aren't using yours, send me an e-mail message describing its condition, features, associated items, price, and terms.

Thank you.

Larry Dighera
LDighera@...

32. Re: looking for antenna

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-02-06 00:29:15 UTC
From: rmorri09
Topic: 30 Message: 32

-- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "Chad" <chad556@...> wrote:
>
> Hello everyone and happy New Year! This is my first post here, and

Try a Grove Skywire. It provides great reception. I bought mine
about 10 years ago and put it in my attic running it from one end of
the house to the other! I also use it on my Pro 433 scanner!

I'm
> quite sure it wont be my last.
>
> I am very green to this hobby. I have always been fascinated with DX
> radio and finally have the time and money to get involved in it. I
> started BIG. I just bought an R8B for my first receiver. I live in a
> small condo in Northern Arizona (Flagstaff) I am surrounded by tall
> mountains and the elevation at my house is 8,200 Feet.
>
> I am looking for the best antenna for my buck at around $200.00. My
> main listening interests are utility stations. This antenna must be
> able to withstand winds of 60 mph +, and not be too much of an
eyesore.
>
> Any feedback will be greatly appreciated.
>
> Chad
>

33. Re: Anyone Have Attic Antenna Design

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-02-06 00:31:05 UTC
From: rmorri09
Topic: 7 Message: 33

-
YES! Get the Grove Skywire. I have one running in my attic and it
works GREAT!

-- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "tbrosnahanhughes"
<tbrosnahanhughes@...> wrote:
>
>
> Anyone have a design for a simple attic antenna that covers the R8B
> range? I have about 20 feet straight run in both directions.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Tom
>

41. Earphone Impedance

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-02-18 11:54:21 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 41 Message: 41

Searching the Drake R8B specifications, I find no mention of the proper headphone impedance. I've seen a headset of 32 ohms offered inexpensively, but I'm unsure if that is the optimal impendence. Does anyone know the spec?

42. software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-02-24 19:20:47 UTC
From: kg6wni
Topic: 42 Message: 42

I,m looking for software to run my drake r8b.
I tried scancat demo but it did not work.Help
THANKS KG6WNI

43. Re: [draker8b] software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-02-27 20:33:33 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 42 Message: 43

On Sat, 24 Feb 2007 19:20:47 -0000, you wrote
<erq36f+5n8k@...>:

> I,m looking for software to run my drake r8b.
> I tried scancat demo but it did not work.Help
> THANKS KG6WNI

Me too.

I found SWLog to be useful. It's available here:
http://www.shortwavelog.com/2-download.html

Here's a blurb I recently posted to the Usenet rec.radio.shortwave
newsgroup:

I started the SWLog V5 (build 2609) install on a 3.2GHz XPHome laptop.
I was reluctant to install it on the laptop, because it lacks an
RS-232 port, and would require the use of a USB to RS-232 adapter. I'm
happy to report, that the Future Technology Devices International Ltd.
<http://www.ftdichip.com/> product functions flawlessly with
MS-WinXP-Home and SWLog V5 (build 2609).

SWLog is the best of the lot of computer-based radio control programs
I've had an opportunity to evaluate. Ergo4 has a few nice features,
and RxPlus seems to have even more, but SWLog seems the most
feature-rich and stable of the three.

SWLog does a lot more than either of them, and it's stable with a
solid feel, unlike other similar software. SWLog's installation can
be daunting, and, once installed, populating the databases is tedious,
but the rewards are awesome! Not only does SWLog do all the things
you'd expect it to do, it supports ~50 receivers, provides useful
recording means, and it enables operation of the radio receiver over
TCP/ip! Well done! The layout is reasonable and graphically
pleasing. Operation is smooth. And it provides a lot of _USEFUL_
tools for the Short Wave Listener. And unbelievably, it's author, Bob
Sillett, has generously chosen to provide his work absolutely FREE!
What a guy!

As I acquire more experience using SWLog, I'll keep you apprised of my
opinions. So far, SWLog appears to be the software of choice for
SWLing with an R8B.

I've yet to properly evaluate HamRadioDeluxe. It seems to be geared
more toward armature radio than SWLing.

Unfortunately, TK75 doesn't support the R. L. Drake R8B receiver.

Mark Fine's Smart R8 Control 32 v3.23 might be equivalent to SmartIcomControl, but for the Drake R8 series of receivers. It seems to permit editing the Drake R8B's 1,000 hardware memory presets directly. That would be useful. There's a copy available here: http://www.nfbnet.org/download/hams.htm .

DXtra's WorldStation 4.1 <http://www.dxtra.com/> Supports the R8B, but I wasn't able to locate an evaluation download.

44. Re: software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-02-28 02:29:00 UTC
From: kg6wni
Topic: 42 Message: 44

```
--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, Larry Dighera <LDighera@...> wrote:
>
> On Sat, 24 Feb 2007 19:20:47 -0000, you wrote
> <erq36f+5n8k@...>:
>
> > I,m looking for software to run my drake r8b.
> > I tried scancat demo but it did not work.Help
> > THANKS KG6WNI
>
>
> Me too.
>
>
> I found SWLog to be useful. It's available here:
> http://www.shortwavelog.com/2-download.html
>
>
> Here's a blurb I recently posted to the Usenet rec.radio.shortwave
> newsgroup:
>
>
>
> I started the SWLog V5 (build 2609) install on a 3.2GHz XPHome
laptop.
> I was reluctant to install it on the laptop, because it lacks an
> RS-232 port, and would require the use of a USB to RS-232 adapter.
I'm
> happy to report, that the Future Technology Devices International
Ltd.
> <http://www.ftdichip.com/> product functions flawlessly with
> MS-WinXP-Home and SWLog V5 (build 2609).
>
> SWLog is the best of the lot of computer-based radio control
programs
> I've had an opportunity to evaluate. Ergo4 has a few nice features,
> and RxPlus seems to have even more, but SWLog seems the most
> feature-rich and stable of the three.
>
> SWLog does a lot more than either of them, and it's stable with a
> solid feel, unlike other similar software. SWLog's installation can
> be daunting, and, once installed, populating the databases is
tedious,
> but the rewards are awesome! Not only does SWLog do all the things
> you'd expect it to do, it supports ~50 receivers, provides useful
> recording means, and it enables operation of the radio receiver over
```

> TCP/ip! Well done! The layout is reasonable and graphically
> pleasing. Operation is smooth. And it provides a lot of _USEFUL_
> tools for the Short Wave Listener. And unbelievably, it's author,
Bob
> Sillett, has generously chosen to provide his work absolutely FREE!
> What a guy!
>
> As I acquire more experience using SWLog, I'll keep you apprised of
my
> opinions. So far, SWLog appears to be the software of choice for
> SWLing with an R8B.
>
> I've yet to properly evaluate HamRadioDeluxe. It seems to be geared
> more toward armature radio than SWLing.
>
> Unfortunately, TK75 doesn't support the R. L. Drake R8B receiver.
>
> Mark Fine's Smart R8 Control 32 v3.23 might be equivalent to
> SmartIcomControl, but for the Drake R8 series of receivers. It
seems
> to permit editing the Drake R8B's 1,000 hardware memory presets
> directly. That would be useful. There's a copy available here:
> http://www.nfbnet.org/download/hams.htm .
>
> DXtra's WorldStation 4.1 <http://www.dxtra.com/> Supports the R8B,
but
> I wasn't able to locate an evaluation download.
>
THANKS I WILL GIVE ALL A TRY.
KG6WNI

45. Re: [draker8b] Re: software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-02-28 18:35:49 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 42 Message: 45

On Wed, 28 Feb 2007 02:29:00 -0000, you wrote
<es2pdc+eqgs@...>:

>THANKS I WILL GIVE ALL A TRY.
> KG6WNI

You're welcome.

I'd be interested in seeing your comments about your experiences with
them.

46. Re: software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-03-04 22:01:29 UTC
From: kg6wni
Topic: 42 Message: 46

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, Larry Dighera <LDighera@...> wrote:
>
> On Wed, 28 Feb 2007 02:29:00 -0000, you wrote
> <es2pdc+eqgs@...>:
>
> >THANKS I WILL GIVE ALL A TRY.
> > KG6WNI
>
>
> You're welcome.
>
> I'd be interested in seeing your comments about your experiences with
> them.
>
I just sent my drake in to get fixed.The frequency hops up
and down when I turn it with the tuning knob.They say it will be $100
to $200.But when I get it back I'll get back to you.
Thanks Again
KG6WNI

47. remote PC access to my Drake R8B?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-03-14 00:08:48 UTC
From: Chad
Topic: 47 Message: 47

Is there a cost effective and simple way I can access my Rig from my work PC or while traveling out of state, while it is turned on at my (base) location?

48. Re: software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-03-14 00:13:34 UTC
From: Chad
Topic: 42 Message: 48

RX Plus is the best for the R8B IMO

http://www.cam.org/~noelbou/RxPlus/

49. Re: [draker8b] remote PC access to my Drake R8B?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-03-14 09:57:05 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 47 Message: 49

On Wed, 14 Mar 2007 00:08:48 -0000, you wrote
<et7eeg+7pnr@...>:

>Is there a cost effective and simple way I can access my Rig from my
>work PC or while traveling out of state, while it is turned on at my
>(base) location?
>

Shortwave Log supports remote receiver operation over the Internet:
http://www.shortwavelog.com/
There is no cost for this program other than a donation you may feel
like making.

50. Re: [draker8b] Re: software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-03-15 00:00:39 UTC
From: bb cc
Topic: 42 Message: 50

Thanks for all the help on software to run my drake.And I will try them all.My radio is at drake getting fixed up.The frequency hops up and down when using the main tuning knob.And when I get it back I'll tell the group how it is going.
Thanks KG6WNI

Chad <chadblack@...> wrote: RX Plus is the best for the R8B IMO

http://www.cam.org/~noelbou/RxPlus/

Finding fabulous fares is fun.
Let Yahoo! FareChase search your favorite travel sites to find flight and hotel bargains.

72. Re: [draker8b] Re: software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-05-04 17:51:45 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 42 Message: 72

On Wed, 14 Mar 2007 00:13:34 -0000, you wrote
<et7ene+jck1@...>:

>RX Plus is the best for the R8B IMO
>
>http://www.cam.org/~noelbou/RxPlus/
>

RxPlus has a lot of features, but the author is not supporting the
Drake R8B:

From: Noël Bouchard <noel@...>
Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2007 22:31:03 -0400
Subject: Re: [RxPlus] Drake R8B Memory Database Problems

Hello Larry,

Sorry not to have replied earlier ...
... just had nothing significant to tell you ...
Well as i said earlier, the PC interface for the R8B hardware mems.
is problematic ... In my short experience when i implemented it
it was quite tricky and needed aome "quirks" to make it work and even
then ...
never seem to be very reliable ... (That may be the reaon there is not
many software
supporting it ... (is there any ?))
So ... i would suggest to use RxPlus software mems. instead ....
Otherwise the only practical way to try to debug this would be to
setup
a remote
access on your R8B setup (using VNC) ... but this would require many
hours f work and
frankly ... there is very few users using this feature ...)
Hope you understand ...

Best 73s

Noël

Larry Dighera wrote:

>
> Dear Noël,
>
> I tried sending this to you via e-mail twice, but received no
> response, so I'm posting it here.
>

> Thanks for your assistance.
>
> Best regards,
> Larry Dighera
> LDighera@... <mailto:LDighera%40att.net>
>
> ---
>
> Hello Noël,
>
> Wow! That was fast! Thank you.
>
> Unfortunately, I don't see any change after clicking the Read All
> button; the AGC field still shows ANT2. Darn.
>
> I did notice that the RxPlus.exe file you sent is 2.297 KB, and the
> updated one on the Yahoo support web site is 2,303 KB.
>
> I don't know how I can further assist you in debugging this. If you
> have any specific suggestions, I'm eager to help.
>
> For what it's worth, here is a copy of my HyperTerm session in which I
> send the 'ID' command, then set the channel to 5 and issue the 'RA'
> command:
>
> ID R8B.12
> C005 RA
> *005 ?2:<< 9680.00*KHz TIWAN 36
>
> I hope that is of some help.
>
> Incidentally, if I try to read a single memory address from RxPlus' R8
> Memories database form by selecting one of the memory records and
> clicking the Read button, I get an error:
>
> Access violation at address 00517F20 in module 'RxPlus.exe'
> Read of address 00000040
>
> The same error occurs if I attempt to write a single memory preset.
>
> Thank you for all your hard work. Much appreciated.
>
> Best regards,
> Larry Dighera
>
> ---
>
> On Thu, 05 Apr 2007 20:05:32 -0400, you wrote
> <46158ECC.8070800@... <mailto:46158ECC.8070800%40vif.com>>:
>

> >Hello Larry,
> >
> >Thanks to your accute observations ... i think i was able to locate the
> >problem when reading the NB when set to WIDE ...
> >Some inconsitency in the usage of the bits pattern here ...
> >See they use 00 for OFF 01 for NARROW but 11 for WIDE Why not 10 ?
> >In any case i corrected this small buggy and i am attaching a zip file
> >conntaining
> >a new EXE ...
> >Please tell me if it fixes it ...
> >
> >As i said previously this may not solve all issues with the R8 Mem
> >feature but ...
> >
> >Best 73s
> >
> >Noël
> >
> ==
> >Larry Dighera wrote:
> >
> >>Hello Noël,
> >>
> >>Thank you for your response to my inquiry about the Drake R8B Memories
> >>database form being populated with erroneous data in the Noise Blanker
> >>field. As you suggested, I have been experimenting.
> >>
> >>As can be seen in Table 6 on page 36 of the R8B Owner's Manual, the
> >>receiver encodes the NB, AGC, RF, Notch, Ant, Mode, Bandwidth, VFO,
> >>Sync, Scanning, and k/MHz states encoded in a five character string.
> >>The error I am experiencing occurs only when the first character of
> >>that string is a '?' character. In that case, clicking the Read All
> >>button causes the RxPlus R8 Memories form to be erroneously populated
> >>with ANT2 in the Noise Blanker field of the corresponding memory
> >>record instead of the correct 'WIDE' NB parameter.
> >>
> >>This error does not occur on the RxPlus R8 Controls, Main tab when a
> >>memory preset/channel preprogrammed with a WIDE Noise Blanker setting
> >>is chosen from the Mem tab. So, the issue seems to be confined solely
> >>to the R8 Memories database form. Indeed, checking all the Noise
> >>Blanker fields of the 1000 memory/preset records on the R8 Memories
> >>form shows only OFF or NARROW, never WIDE.
> >>
> >>I hope this information is of assistance in resolving this issue.
> >>
> >>Just for reference, you'll find the RL Drake R8B User's Manual here if
> >>you should need to refer to it: http://www.hamradio.no/la3tq/r8b.htm
> <http://www.hamradio.no/la3tq/r8b.htm>
> >>
> >>But it would appear that all that needs to be done is correct the R8

> >>Memories form handling of the case where the first character of the
> >>five character 'MODE' string is a '?' (or perhaps a '<' or '>')
> >>character, as those are the only characters that indicate WIDE NB
> >>mode.
> >>
> >>Thanks again for a terrific program.
> >>
> >>Best regards,
> >>Larry Dighera
> >>
> ==========
> >>
> >>
> >>On Mon, 02 Apr 2007 20:40:58 -0400, you wrote
> >><4611A29A.50405@... <mailto:4611A29A.50405%40vif.com>>:
> >>
> >>
> >>>>Hello Larry,
> >>>>
> >>>>Sorry for the delay ...
> >>>>
> >>>>Well ... the best i can say is that the R8B Mem. functions are
> >>>>problematic ...
> >>>>I had a R8B for a cou[ple of weeks some 2 -3 years ago and found
> out that
> >>>>it "kind of" works but the writes may take a long time and sometimes
> >>>>fails mistriously ...
> >>>>That's may be the reason why there is not too many software that
> support
> >>>>it ...
> >>>>The best i can say is to experiment with it ....
> >>>>
> >>>>
> >>>>Best 73s
> >>>>
> >>>>Noël
> >>>>
> ==========
> >>>
> >>>Larry Dighera wrote:
> >>>
> >>>
> >>>>>>Dear Noël Bouchard,
> >>>>>>
> >>>>>>Since my last e-mail message I have joined the Yahoo RxPlus User's
> >>>>>>group. There I found the missing R8 memory database files. I have
> >>>>>>placed them in the RxPlus home directory, and the error I mentioned in
> >>>>>>my last e-mail is now resolved. However, there are still a few R8B
> >>>>>>memory issues.
> >>>>>>

> >>>> 1. Clicking the 'Read ALL' button causes the database records to
> >>>>be populated, but the NB fields may contain Antenna instead of Noise
> >>>>Blanker settings. I've attached my R8 database files, so you can see
> >>>>what I'm talking about.
> >>>>
> >>>> 2. Clicking the 'Write' button yields the following error
> >>>>message:
> >>>> Access violation at address 005041CB in module 'Rx_Plus.exe'.
> >>>> Read of address 00000040.
> >>>>
> >>>>I haven't yet tried the 'Write All' button for fear of corrupting the
> >>>>data currently stored in the receiver memories.
> >>>>
> >>>>Please don't get the idea that I am not happy with your product. I
> >>>>only want to inform you of the difficulties I've discovered. Would
> >>>>you prefer that future bug reports be sent via e-mail or posted in the
> >>>>Yahoo support group?
> >>>>
> >>>>Thanks for a great program. RxPlus transforms the Drake R8B into an
> >>>>even more awesome receiver.
> >>>>
> >>>>Best regards,
> >>>>Larry Dighera
> >>>>
> >>>>
> >>>>PS:
> >>>>Just for reference, you'll find the RL Drake R8B User's Manual here if
> >>>>you should need to refer to it:
> http://www.hamradio.no/la3tq/r8b.htm
> <http://www.hamradio.no/la3tq/r8b.htm>
>
>
>

74. SCAN MODES

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-06-16 15:23:44 UTC
From: plotoknow2002
Topic: 74 Message: 74

I can,t get my r8b to scan.I have the manual an I feel that I AM Doing what it says to do.ex scan 94.000 to 10.000.I have alot of memory chanels from 000 to 050 that I can ondly scan manualey.Can any one help me? DON TILLMAN

75. Re: [draker8b] SCAN MODES

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-06-16 16:39:12 UTC
From: bb cc
Topic: 74 Message: 75

press the orange F button press # 1 button press scan button.If that wont work???
leo

plotoknow2002 <tillman_don@...> wrote: I can,t get my r8b to scan.I have the manual an I feel that I AM Doing
what it says to do.ex scan 94.000 to 10.000.I have alot of memory
chanels from 000 to 050 that I can ondly scan manualey.Can any one help
me? DON TILLMAN

Pinpoint customers who are looking for what you sell.

76. Re: [draker8b] SCAN MODES

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-06-16 18:35:05 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 74 Message: 76

On Sat, 16 Jun 2007 15:23:44 -0000, you wrote
<f50va0+qkjr@...>:

>I can,t get my r8b to scan.I have the manual an I feel that I AM Doing
>what it says to do.ex scan 94.000 to 10.000.I have alot of memory
>chanels from 000 to 050 that I can ondly scan manualey.Can any one help
>me? DON TILLMAN

There are several ways to use the Drake R8B scan functions. I presume
you want to scan from a starting frequency (9400kHz) to an ending
frequency (10000kHz) and have the scan stop when a carrier is
detected. To do that here's what the users manual advises (pages 19
through 21):

SCAN A - B
An A-B scan allows continuous tuning of frequencies
between two programmed limits.

To perform an A - B scan, press 'F' then '3'

Key 3: Scans from frequency A to frequency B.

To enable that scan mode, press the 'F' key to momentarily enable
Function mode, and while the 'F' is displayed on the LCD, press the
'3' key. You will notice that 'SCAN A-B' is now displayed. The
manual continues on to advise how to set the scan method:

Result: A - B flashes and the frequency display changes to
show one of the current scan frequency endpoints. To
change this endpoint, enter a new frequency.

In your case, you would set the start frequency with the keypad by
entering '9400'.

To set the second endpoint, press the ^ (up arrow) or v (down
arrow button. The display now shows the other frequency endpoint.
Enter a new frequency, if desired. To review the endpoints, press
the ^ or v buttons.

In your case, you would set the ending frequency with the keypad by
entering '10000'.

Key 4: Stops scan at first carrier detected.

To enable that scan method, press the 'F' key to momentarily enable
Function mode, and while the 'F' is displayed on the LCD, press the
'4' key. You will notice that 'SCAN A-B CARR' is now displayed. The
manual continues on to advise how to scan A - B:

Adjust squelch to quiet receiver audio.

Use the 'Scan' button to start and stop frequency scanning. Refer to the users manual to set the Step size, etc.

Important Notes About Scanning
In all scanning modes the setting of the SQUELCH control is important for proper scanning action. Due to atmospheric noises alone, using a squelch control in the HF spectrum is, at best, a compromise. A more exact method of SQUELCH setting is provided here.
First, be sure the SQUELCH control is counterclockwise. Next, adjust the RF gain control slowly counterclockwise until the S METER reads the signal level desired to trip the squelch circuit. For example, if you want only signals S-7 or stronger to break the SQUELCH, rotate the RF GAIN control until the S-METER is reading S-7. Next, leaving the RF GAIN control alone, advance the SQUELCH control clockwise until the receiver audio just quiets. Finally, advance the RF GAIN fully clockwise. The receiver is now ready for accurate scanning.

I hope this is useful information for you.

Best regards,
Larry Dighera
LDighera@...

81. battery backup

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-09 20:08:26 UTC
From: kg6wni
Topic: 81 Message: 81

I have three radios and a computer all on a surge protector.At the
end of the day I turn off the surge protector and go.Turning off the
surge protector cuts all power and my drake r8b will lose all the
clock settings.I'm thinking of hooking up a small battery 9v to the
back of radio where you would hookup an external dc source for
powering the radio.My question is will this work?.I am not looking to
see the display
when the radio is unplug I just want to keep the time.And I do not
want to burn up something in the radio.
THANKS LEO

82. Re: [draker8b] battery backup

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-10 15:33:28 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 81 Message: 82

On Sun, 09 Sep 2007 20:08:26 -0000, you wrote
<fc1jrq+h0e0@...>:

> I have three radios and a computer all on a surge protector.At the
>end of the day I turn off the surge protector and go.Turning off the
>surge protector cuts all power and my drake r8b will lose all the
>clock settings.I'm thinking of hooking up a small battery 9v to the
>back of radio where you would hookup an external dc source for
>powering the radio.My question is will this work?.I am not looking to
>see the display
>when the radio is unplug I just want to keep the time.And I do not
>want to burn up something in the radio.
> THANKS LEO
>

Leo,

That's a good idea. I believe you'd need to use a 12 volt battery
though. You could hook it up temporarily, so that you could see how
much power is drawn through the circuit when the R8B is powered off. I
wouldn't think it would be too much. Probably only the push button
and the memory get power then.

Drake sells the maintenance manual for about $45, and they were in
stock the last time I checked.

83. R8B for sale

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-10 17:26:24 UTC
From: jlbconsul1
Topic: 83 Message: 83

I have a Drake R8B for sale. It has been unused for the past 5 years
in original box. Price $1100 + shipping and insurance.

84. Re: [draker8b] R8B for sale

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-10 18:14:44 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 83 Message: 84

On Mon, 10 Sep 2007 17:26:24 -0000, you wrote
<fc3uo0+ad4c@...>:

>I have a Drake R8B for sale. It has been unused for the past 5 years
>in original box. Price $1100 + shipping and insurance.

Is the VHF tuner included? What is the serial number? How would you
describe the condition of the receiver? Where are you located?
Thanks.

85. Re: [draker8b] R8B for sale

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-10 19:03:57 UTC
From: Joan
Topic: 83 Message: 85

I will have my husband respond to these questions.

The condition of the reciever is almost new. I am located in Jamison, PA 18929.

Joan
----- Original Message -----
From: "Larry Dighera" <LDighera@...>
To: <draker8b@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2007 2:14 PM
Subject: Re: [draker8b] R8B for sale

> On Mon, 10 Sep 2007 17:26:24 -0000, you wrote
> <fc3uo0+ad4c@...>:
>
>>I have a Drake R8B for sale. It has been unused for the past 5 years
>>in original box. Price $1100 + shipping and insurance.
>
> Is the VHF tuner included? What is the serial number? How would you
> describe the condition of the receiver? Where are you located?
> Thanks.
>
>
>
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
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>

86. Re: [draker8b] battery backup

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-10 19:44:10 UTC
From: bb cc
Topic: 81 Message: 86

Thanks for the help and I will give it a try.Yahoo groups are the best thing around.
Thank You LEO

Larry Dighera <LDighera@...> wrote: On Sun, 09 Sep 2007 20:08:26 -0000, you wrote
<fc1jrq+h0e0@...>:

> I have three radios and a computer all on a surge protector.At the
>end of the day I turn off the surge protector and go.Turning off the
>surge protector cuts all power and my drake r8b will lose all the
>clock settings.I'm thinking of hooking up a small battery 9v to the
>back of radio where you would hookup an external dc source for
>powering the radio.My question is will this work?.I am not looking to
>see the display
>when the radio is unplug I just want to keep the time.And I do not
>want to burn up something in the radio.
> THANKS LEO
>

Leo,

That's a good idea. I believe you'd need to use a 12 volt battery
though. You could hook it up temporarily, so that you could see how
much power is drawn through the circuit when the R8B is powered off. I
wouldn't think it would be too much. Probably only the push button
and the memory get power then.

Drake sells the maintenance manual for about $45, and they were in
stock the last time I checked.

Need a vacation? Get great deals to amazing places on Yahoo! Travel.

87. Schematic for R8B

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-17 20:31:14 UTC
From: jgedde
Topic: 87 Message: 87

Hello all, I'm new to this group. My R8B is arriving tomorrow from Universal Radio. I can't wait!

Right now, I have an Icom R75 (modded extensively to fix AGC, fidelity and sync AM issues) and am a member of the R75 group. As such, we have R75 schematics available for download in the files section.

Does anyone have PDF schematics for the R8B? I'm planning on designing an IF downconverter (50 kHz to 12 kHz) to allow for a rear panel IF output at 12 kHz for use with DRM software (I've already done this for the R75). This is a bit different than what I used for the R75 since I need an oscillator running at 62 kHz rather than 462 kHz (R75 final IF is at 450 kHz. Go figure why Icom chose 450 instead of a more standard 455 kHz). Using a 455 kHz IF transformer tuned to 462 is not applicable in this case.

I'd be happy to present my final, tested design to the group...

Cheers,
John

88. SPAM

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-17 22:01:27 UTC
From: jgedde
Topic: 88 Message: 88

There is certainly quite a bit of it interspersed throughout... Is tis typical?

89. Re: Schematic for R8B

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-18 02:21:19 UTC
From: epiphone1001
Topic: 87 Message: 89

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, "jgedde" <jgedde@...> wrote:
>
> Hello all, I'm new to this group. My R8B is arriving tomorrow from
> Universal Radio. I can't wait!
>
> Right now, I have an Icom R75 (modded extensively to fix AGC,
fidelity
> and sync AM issues) and am a member of the R75 group. As such, we
have
> R75 schematics available for download in the files section.
>
> Does anyone have PDF schematics for the R8B? I'm planning on
designing
> an IF downconverter (50 kHz to 12 kHz) to allow for a rear panel IF
> output at 12 kHz for use with DRM software (I've already done this
for
> the R75). This is a bit different than what I used for the R75
since I
> need an oscillator running at 62 kHz rather than 462 kHz (R75 final
IF
> is at 450 kHz. Go figure why Icom chose 450 instead of a more
standard
> 455 kHz). Using a 455 kHz IF transformer tuned to 462 is not
> applicable in this case.
>
> I'd be happy to present my final, tested design to the group...
>
> Cheers,
> John
>
John,

Congratulations on getting an R8B. I've had mine for about five years and they are fabulous. I don't have a PDF schematic, but you should be able to get a service manual from Drake directly I should think. Your interest in modifications indicates that the manual is something you should have. Have fun!

90. Re: [draker8b] Schematic for R8B

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-09-20 13:24:24 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 87 Message: 90

On Mon, 17 Sep 2007 20:31:14 -0000, you wrote
<fcmo6i+kpul@...>:

>Hello all, I'm new to this group. My R8B is arriving tomorrow from
>Universal Radio. I can't wait!
>
>Right now, I have an Icom R75 (modded extensively to fix AGC, fidelity
>and sync AM issues) and am a member of the R75 group. As such, we have
>R75 schematics available for download in the files section.
>
>Does anyone have PDF schematics for the R8B? I'm planning on designing
>an IF downconverter (50 kHz to 12 kHz) to allow for a rear panel IF
>output at 12 kHz for use with DRM software (I've already done this for
>the R75). This is a bit different than what I used for the R75 since I
>need an oscillator running at 62 kHz rather than 462 kHz (R75 final IF
>is at 450 kHz. Go figure why Icom chose 450 instead of a more standard
>455 kHz). Using a 455 kHz IF transformer tuned to 462 is not
>applicable in this case.
>
>I'd be happy to present my final, tested design to the group...
>
>Cheers,
>John
>
>

John,

That sounds like a worthwhile project.

I purchased an R8B service manual from R. L. Drake
<http://rldrake.com/tech/producthelp.html> several months ago for
under $50.00. As the manual bears a specific copyright, I'm not too
sure how Drake would feel about making an Acrobat file of it available
publicly, but you can talk to Drake Service Manager Mr. Bill Frost (a
super guy) about it: BFrost@... Telephone: 937-746-6990.

Perhaps I can scan specific portions of the dozens of schematics for
you.

91. Re: software

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-10-08 21:44:51 UTC
From: rrezazadegan
Topic: 42 Message: 91

Do you know if SWLog works for Drake R8 (not A/B)?

Thank you
Reza

--- In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, Larry Dighera <LDighera@...> wrote:
>
> On Sat, 24 Feb 2007 19:20:47 -0000, you wrote
> <erq36f+5n8k@...>:
>
> > I,m looking for software to run my drake r8b.
> > I tried scancat demo but it did not work.Help
> > THANKS KG6WNI
>
>
> Me too.
>
>
> I found SWLog to be useful. It's available here:
> http://www.shortwavelog.com/2-download.html
>
>
> Here's a blurb I recently posted to the Usenet rec.radio.shortwave
> newsgroup:
>
>
>
> I started the SWLog V5 (build 2609) install on a 3.2GHz XPHome laptop.
> I was reluctant to install it on the laptop, because it lacks an
> RS-232 port, and would require the use of a USB to RS-232 adapter. I'm
> happy to report, that the Future Technology Devices International Ltd.
> <http://www.ftdichip.com/> product functions flawlessly with
> MS-WinXP-Home and SWLog V5 (build 2609).
>
> SWLog is the best of the lot of computer-based radio control programs
> I've had an opportunity to evaluate. Ergo4 has a few nice features,
> and RxPlus seems to have even more, but SWLog seems the most
> feature-rich and stable of the three.
>
> SWLog does a lot more than either of them, and it's stable with a
> solid feel, unlike other similar software. SWLog's installation can
> be daunting, and, once installed, populating the databases is tedious,
> but the rewards are awesome! Not only does SWLog do all the things
> you'd expect it to do, it supports ~50 receivers, provides useful
> recording means, and it enables operation of the radio receiver over

> TCP/ip! Well done! The layout is reasonable and graphically
> pleasing. Operation is smooth. And it provides a lot of _USEFUL_
> tools for the Short Wave Listener. And unbelievably, it's author, Bob
> Sillett, has generously chosen to provide his work absolutely FREE!
> What a guy!
>
> As I acquire more experience using SWLog, I'll keep you apprised of my
> opinions. So far, SWLog appears to be the software of choice for
> SWLing with an R8B.
>
> I've yet to properly evaluate HamRadioDeluxe. It seems to be geared
> more toward armature radio than SWLing.
>
> Unfortunately, TK75 doesn't support the R. L. Drake R8B receiver.
>
> Mark Fine's Smart R8 Control 32 v3.23 might be equivalent to
> SmartIcomControl, but for the Drake R8 series of receivers. It seems
> to permit editing the Drake R8B's 1,000 hardware memory presets
> directly. That would be useful. There's a copy available here:
> http://www.nfbnet.org/download/hams.htm .
>
> DXtra's WorldStation 4.1 <http://www.dxtra.com/> Supports the R8B, but
> I wasn't able to locate an evaluation download.
>

94. DRM

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-12-04 22:33:13 UTC
From: tnhamop
Topic: 94 Message: 94

Has anyone modded the R8B so it can receive DRM transmissions? Any help in this area is appreciated.

95. Re: [draker8b] DRM

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2007-12-06 18:45:34 UTC
From: bb cc
Topic: 94 Message: 95

that is a good ? I hope that someone will do that I think win radio has it.

tnhamop <tnhamop@...> wrote: Has anyone modded the R8B so it can receive DRM transmissions? Any help
in this area is appreciated.

Looking for last minute shopping deals? Find them fast with Yahoo! Search.

96. Weighted Tuning Knob

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-01-17 15:31:46 UTC
From: jvchesley
Topic: 96 Message: 96

Hello,

Can anyone tell me where to get the weighted tuning knob for the Drake R8B? I remember that a firm offered them for sale but can not find it.

Thanks.

John

97. Re: [draker8b] Weighted Tuning Knob

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-01-17 20:57:22 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 96 Message: 97

On Sat, 17 Jan 2009 15:31:46 -0000, "jvchesley"
<hamster749@...> wrote in <gkstl2+vg3u@...>:

>Can anyone tell me where to get the weighted tuning knob for the Drake
>R8B? I remember that a firm offered them for sale but can not find it.

Here are some ideas:

http://www.radiointel.com/R8.htm
VFO Modification for smoother tuning. Its very simple, remove the
VFO tuning knob from the R8. It is does not come off very easily
and requires some hard pulling. Fill the inside of the knob with
lead shot and epoxy over the to hold the lead BBs in place. Make
sure not to get the epoxy over the hole that plugs back into the
radio. Let the epoxy dry and push the knob back on the radio. It's
very easy and you will notice a big difference in how much
smoother the knob turns. While you won't get a true fly wheel
effect, the modification does make a difference.

---

http://homepages.tig.com.au/~vk5vka/draklist.htm#Knob
Can my Drake R8A/B Tuning knob be improved? It's too light!

The knob can be removed by pulling it towards you firmly. Some
ways of making it heavier include the following.

Fill the hollow back of the R8A/B knob with a mixture of epoxy
(slow curing) and steel ball bearing's. It creates a smoother feel
because of the increased mass/momentum. This doesn't put any
significant stress on the rotary encoder because it's supported at
the rear (behind the encoder wheel) in addition to the shaft in
front. I haven't noticed any wear/looseness since I weighted the
knob several years ago.

Another suggestion includes using the tuning knob from an Icom
IC-R72 which apparently fits very well and is ideally weighted.

---

http://www.monitoringtimes.com/html/mtscan0299.pdf
Bob Parnass

---

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.shortwave/browse_thread/thread/c26442264bec1d15?q
=drake+r8b+tuning+knob#237a97d1b7a2c29e
I replaced the R8B knob with that of the R8---the aesthetic

enhancement that the old R8 knob adds to the receiver is
remarkable!

---

http://www.surplussales.com/ShaftHardware/Knobs-12.html
Spinner-Crank Knobs

---
http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.swap/msg/52f3b856d530c91d
From: mikemaghak...@... (Mike Maghakian)
Newsgroups: rec.radio.shortwave,rec.radio.swap
Subject: high quality machined metal tuning knob for
communications receivers
Date: 28 Jul 2003 16:54:42 -0700
Message-ID: <7f80c3b4.0307281554.53fbb499@...>

I have 1 3/4 inch by 5/8 inch metal black tuning knobs for sale.
they have a raised dimple for your finger tip and look very sleek
and cool. they have a 1/4 inch hole for the tuning shaft. they
use two set screws to hold them in place.

they are $9.50 each or 2 for $18 with free shipping to the USA.
add $5 for foreign shipping.

they work fine on at least these radios:
drake R8 series
Drake SW-8
Grundig Satellit 800

and should work on any radio with a 1/4 inch tuning shaft.
pics at:
http://f1.pg.photos.yahoo.com/bc/mmaghakian/lst?.dir=/knob&.view=t

---

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.shortwave/browse_thread/thread/e8670190558a2f9c?q
=drake+r8b+tuning+knob#828850b2100aa1f8
The knob that the R8 used is really decent. Machined from
aluminum, nicely knurled with a finger hole and hex setscrew too!
That knob is of the same styling and matches the other knobs on
the R8B. The dimensions are roughly 1.5" in diameter by 5/8" wide
and is flat black.

---

98. Speaker Discovery

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-01-20 00:39:18 UTC
From: jvchesley
Topic: 98 Message: 98

I have been looking for the optimal outboard speaker for my R8B as I was never able to get an MS-8. Recently, I picked up the Icom SP-23 which has a great sound for a small speaker and provisions for 2 receivers along with four audio filters. It is almost exactly the same height and depth of the receiver (about 3/8" shorter) and all black with white lettering. It looks great next to it and other than the Icom logo would not know it came with the radio. You could change the mounting feet to make it level with the R8B. Does anyone have a favorite speaker they are using with the R8B that will allow full fidelity yet not too bassy or bright?

John, AK3Z

99. Antenna/receiving FM stations

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-02-03 20:53:34 UTC
From: emann9
Topic: 99 Message: 99

Hello Group:

I am new to the group and had a couple of questions about the Drake R8B:

1. What is a good outdoor antenna to use with the R8B, and is reasonably priced?

2. Can the R8B pick up FM radio stations, 88-108MGZ? If not, is there something I can do to the unit in order to pick up these frequencies?

Thank You
Eric

100. Re: [draker8b] Antenna/receiving FM stations

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-02-17 02:15:03 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 99 Message: 100

On Tue, 03 Feb 2009 20:53:34 -0000, "emann9" <emann9@...> wrote
in <gmaase+tjsq@...>:

>Hello Group:
>
>I am new to the group and had a couple of questions about the Drake R8B:
>
>1. What is a good outdoor antenna to use with the R8B, and is
>reasonably priced?
>

Here's the one I use:

http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/sw_ant/2205.html
he Par Electronics EF-SWL is an end-fed short wave antenna optimally
designed for 1-30 MHz reception. The radiator is 45 feet of genuine
#14 black polyethylene coated Flex-Weave wire.

The wire itself consists of 168 strands of #36 gauge woven copper.
This material is very strong yet can easily be coiled like a rope for
portable work. The UV resistant matchbox houses a wideband 9:1
transformer wound on a binocular core. Unlike other transformers,
external stainless studs on the matchbox allow the user to configure
the primary and secondary grounds for best noise reduction at their
particular location. Examples are given in the manual. Output is via a
silver/teflon SO239 UHF connector (ready to accept a PL-259). Lead-in
coax cable is not provided.

The radiator also attaches via a stainless stud allowing it to be
removed, or replaced with a different length radiator for experimental
purposes. The newly redesigned snag-proof insulators are very strong.
The included manual shows typical radiation patterns for selected
frequencies through out the HF spectrum. (This is a receive-only
antenna).

More: http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/sw_ant.html

>
>2. Can the R8B pick up FM radio stations, 88-108MGZ? If not, is there
>something I can do to the unit in order to pick up these frequencies?
>

The optional VHF converter tunes 35 to 55 MHz and 108 to 174 MHz, so
it doesn't cover the FM broadcast band. You'd have to build a
converter.

>Thank You
>Eric
>
>
>------------------------------------
>
>Yahoo! Groups Links
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101. CW mode

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-04-26 20:13:54 UTC
From: tnhamop
Topic: 101 Message: 101

I have not paid attention in the past but just noticed today something peculiar when monitoring CW. I wanted to know if this is how CW is working on other folks R8B. When in CW mode, I noticed that I can tune in the station sending CW, and then tune past it and hear the CW tone get lower, then zero beat, then as I keep tuning, the same CW station comes in on the other side and increaes in pitch. In other words, it seems the CW mode on the R8B picks up the signal on both upper and lower side. Does this happen for everyone?

102. Re: [draker8b] CW mode

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-04-28 00:36:15 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 101 Message: 102

On Sun, 26 Apr 2009 20:13:54 -0000, "tnhamop" <tnhamop@...>
wrote in <gt2fa2+ib26@...>:

>When in CW mode, I noticed that I can tune in the station sending CW,
>and then tune past it and hear the CW tone get lower, then zero beat,
>then as I keep tuning, the same CW station comes in on the other side
>and increaes in pitch. In other words, it seems the CW mode on the R8B
>picks up the signal on both upper and lower side.

CW mode switches on the Beat Frequency Oscillator. The higher it's
pitch, the further off the frequency of the transmitter you are tuned.
At zero-beat you are tuned to the center of the CW signal.

>Does this happen for everyone?
No. It only happens for those who switch the receiver
to CW mode. :-)

103. Dim the Lights!

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-06-16 21:15:34 UTC
From: forestradio
Topic: 103 Message: 103

Anyone have any simple ideas for making the display light even dimmer on the R8B? Wouldn't matter if both the high and low brightness positions were affected, or just the low position. I'd like to turn the display lighting way down for its new role as a premier bedside radio.

104. R8B Survival Kit

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-06-28 02:55:48 UTC
From: joe_redshirt
Topic: 104 Message: 104

Hello, I am a newbie to the group and just purchased an R8B and separately, a 1590 VHF converter. Both are still in the shipping pipeline - expect to receive them Tuesday.

Until now, I have only DX'ed with portable radio's like the Sony ICF-2010 and Sangean/RadioLabs Super ATS-909. I have used the whips, shortwire (reel) antenna, and the Sony AN/LP-1 active antenna, all in the house. I felt I was ready to move to the next level, so I purchased the R8B.

My question is: what would you be on your list of essentials for someone in my position just starting with the R8B?

At the top of my current list is a good longwire/discone antenna, but even more subtle things like PL-259 connectors/RG8 lead-in cable may be needed. Other items might be a dust cover, battery mods, etc. I am an experienced EE and general electronics hobbiest (probably like many of you!).

Your opinions about specific items or brands would be greatly appreciated.

73's

Joe

105. Re: [draker8b] R8B Survival Kit

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-06-30 21:47:26 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 104 Message: 105

I'm located on the west coast, and I have good reception with the
antenna below strung about 20' above the ground strung with one end
pointed north, and the other south (magnetic):

http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/sw_ant/2205.html
The Par Electronics EF-SWL is an end-fed short wave antenna
optimally designed for 1-30 MHz reception. The radiator is 45 feet
of genuine #14 black polyethylene coated Flex-Weave wire.

The wire itself consists of 168 strands of #36 gauge woven copper.
This material is very strong yet can easily be coiled like a rope
for portable work. The UV resistant matchbox houses a wideband 9:1
transformer wound on a binocular core. Unlike other transformers,
external stainless studs on the matchbox allow the user to
configure the primary and secondary grounds for best noise
reduction at their particular location. Examples are given in the
manual. Output is via a silver/teflon SO239 UHF connector (ready
to accept a PL-259). Lead-in coax cable is not provided.

The radiator also attaches via a stainless stud allowing it to be
removed, or replaced with a different length radiator for
experimental purposes. The newly redesigned snag-proof insulators
are very strong. The included manual shows typical radiation
patterns for selected frequencies through out the HF spectrum.
(This is a receive-only antenna).

I also use a directional dipole indoors.

You'll find lots of VHF antennas here:
http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/scanants.html

There are a lot of radio control programs out there. SWLog works
well, but I can't seem to get the author to support the VHF spectrum
of the R8B. RxPlus doesn't work well with the R8B memory presets, and
the author blames the receiver' computer interface.

I'm not very pleased with the R8B's frequency scanning operation.

On Sun, 28 Jun 2009 02:55:48 -0000, "joe_redshirt"
<joe_redshirt@...> wrote in <h26m3k+b20u@...>:

>Hello, I am a newbie to the group and just purchased an R8B and separately, a 1590 VHF
converter. Both are still in the shipping pipeline - expect to receive them Tuesday.
>
>Until now, I have only DX'ed with portable radio's like the Sony ICF-2010 and
Sangean/RadioLabs Super ATS-909. I have used the whips, shortwire (reel) antenna, and the
Sony AN/LP-1 active antenna, all in the house. I felt I was ready to move to the next

level, so I purchased the R8B.
>
>My question is: what would you be on your list of essentials for someone in my position just starting with the R8B?
>
>At the top of my current list is a good longwire/discone antenna, but even more subtle things like PL-259 connectors/RG8 lead-in cable may be needed. Other items might be a dust cover, battery mods, etc. I am an experienced EE and general electronics hobbiest (probably like many of you!).
>
>Your opinions about specific items or brands would be greatly appreciated.
>
>73's
>
>Joe
>
>

106. Re: R8B Survival Kit

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-07-01 04:46:40 UTC
From: joe_redshirt
Topic: 104 Message: 106

Larry,

Thanks for the tips. The R8B arrived today in physical good shape. Seems to be manufactured in 11/1997, so it is an older unit.

You are the second person to recommend this same antenna. I see the reviews on eham are excellent. Price is very nice as well. I will probably get that antenna.

I powered up the R8B, and can hear some hiss through the speaker. However, without an antenna, I am not picking up any signals at all on any frequency. I am located in an east coast USA suburban area, so I thought I might get lucky and pick up a nearby 50 kw blowtorch (15 miles away). Does this sound normal?

As a temporary measure, I ordered a PL-259 to BNC (male) adapter to connect my Sony AN/LP1 active antenna to the radio. It won't even come close to a descent outdoor antenna, but I jsut want to test the receiver for life.

Thanks for the tips on the software. I also heard about a program called "Smart R8 Control" that is no longer in production, but is apparently available somewhere on the web. Not sure if it is up to speed with the more recent software that you mentioned.

Thanks Again for the tips.

Regards,

Joe

107. Re: [draker8b] Re: R8B Survival Kit

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2009-07-01 13:55:02 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 104 Message: 107

Joe,

My comments in-line below:

On Wed, 01 Jul 2009 04:46:40 -0000, "joe_redshirt"
<joe_redshirt@...> wrote in <h2epng+kg2f@...>:

>Larry,
>
>Thanks for the tips.

You're welcome.

>The R8B arrived today in physical good shape. Seems to be manufactured in 11/1997, so it is an older unit.
>
>You are the second person to recommend this same antenna. I see the reviews on eham are excellent. Price is very nice as well. I will probably get that antenna.
>

I don't know what you're planning, but that antenna is designed for
receive-only duty, just in case you're planning to transmit as well.

>
>I powered up the R8B, and can hear some hiss through the speaker. However, without an antenna, I am not picking up any signals at all on any frequency. I am located in an east coast USA suburban area, so I thought I might get lucky and pick up a nearby 50 kw blowtorch (15 miles away). Does this sound normal?
>

The receiver is very well shielded. That's a feature.

As a temporary expedience you can just connect any random length of
wire to one of the antenna terminals, and you'll hear a lot of
stations.

>
>As a temporary measure, I ordered a PL-259 to BNC (male) adapter to connect my Sony AN/LP1 active antenna to the radio. It won't even come close to a descent outdoor antenna, but I jsut want to test the receiver for life.
>

You won't need an active antenna. The R8B has ample gain, and a
preamplifier for the higher frequencies.

>
>Thanks for the tips on the software. I also heard about a program called "Smart R8 Control" that is no longer in production, but is apparently available somewhere on the web.

Not sure if it is up to speed with the more recent software that you mentioned.
>

Yeah, several versions of Smart R8 Control are available on-line:
http://www.qrz.com/download/controls/index.html

Take a look at Shortwave Log:
http://www.shortwavelog.com/download.aspx

>
>Thanks Again for the tips.
>
>Regards,
>
>Joe
>

108. [draker8b] Source for R. L. Drake R8B Vinyl Dust Covers (and others)

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2010-02-08 17:54:59 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 104 Message: 108

I purchased one of these covers and found the quality and value to be very good. So I thought I'd alert the other members of the group to this useful product. (Disclaimer: I'm only a satisfied customer.)

http://www.surplussales.com/equipment/HamEquipment/DustCovers.html
Covercraft Dust Covers

☐ Anti-Static Vinyl
☐ Custom Designed
☐ Interlocking Seams
☐ Protects from Dust, Dirt & Spills
☐ Lifetime Guarantee

Prices are $9.95 each - $8.95 (5+ most covers)

DC-70205 DRAKE R8 5.25 x 13.25 x 13.5 $9.95

Best regards,
Larry Dighera
LDighera@...

109. Drake R8B Tuning Technique Saves Encoder Wear

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2010-11-22 17:05:18 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 109 Message: 109

Drake R8B Tuning Technique Saves Encoder Wear

After reading several reports of premature Drake R8B tuning knob mechanical encoder failure, I recall asking Bill Frost, R L Drake service manager, about it. His cryptic response was, "it a matter of operator tuning technique." I recall thinking at the time, that he was referring to the use of the ^ & V (up-arrow & down-arrow) buttons in lieu of rotating the tuning knob.

That ^ & V tuning button technique is just right for tuning broadcast stations that transmit on the even five kilohertz'. But there is something about smoothly gliding along the frequency spectrum that provides the operator with information about signals preceding and following the desired frequency, that is absent in jumping along the spectrum in discrete five kilohertz steps.

Here's how to use the R8's automated slow-scan tuning to glide along the spectrum in leisurely 10 KHz steps:

1. Set the 'Squelch' full counterclockwise (off)

2. Press 'F', then '6' 'Carrier'

3. Press 'F' then 'Step' until 'X.00' is displayed (10 KHz)

4. Press 'F' then 'A.B' (3), enter high frequency like 26.550 MHz

5. Press '^' (up arrow), enter low frequency like 4.500.00 MHz

6. Press 'F' 'A.B', then 'Scan' to begin scanning, 'Scan' to stop

7. Tune to a desired band low-end frequency, like 4.4 MHz

8. Press 'Scan' to begin scanning from that frequency

9. Press '^ or V' (up arrow or down arrow) to reverse scan direction

10. Press 'Scan' to stop, then enter another frequency

11. Press 'Scan' to begin scanning from that new frequency

12. Press 'Scan' again to stop the scan when an interesting station is tuned

Once the 'A.B' frequency registers are loaded with upper-limit and lower-limit frequencies, you can slow-scan from any new frequency very easily. And you don't even need to touch the tuning knob.

Although these instructions look a bit daunting at first glance, you'll find that actual operation is intuitive and easy once the 'A.B' frequency registers are properly initialized; just tune to a frequency and press 'Scan.' Simple.

This technique should have specifically been included in the owner's manual in my opinion.

Opinions on the use of this technique are welcome as are any other tuning techniques you may find useful.

110. "PWRLOS"

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-05-06 01:33:06 UTC
From: joesmoe3us
Topic: 110 Message: 110

O.k. was out of the country, long wire antenna broke, was not motivated until recent warm weather to climb on the roof to restore the antenna, and, plug in the radio -- works great.

So, how to reset the "PWRLOS" notice on the display ?

I have the VHF board installed -- so, how does one direct select one of those higher frequencies ?

How has everyone been doing ?

I note these receivers still seem to fetch a pretty penny. No, mine is not for sale. :-)

Joe

111. Re: [draker8b] "PWRLOS"

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-05-07 01:40:41 UTC
From: bb cc
Topic: 110 Message: 111

reset the time

_____
From: joesmoe3us <t1@kent-home.net>
To: draker8b@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thu, May 5, 2011 6:33:06 PM
Subject: [draker8b] "PWRLOS"

O.k. was out of the country, long wire antenna broke, was not motivated until recent warm weather to climb on the roof to restore the antenna, and, plug in the radio -- works great.

So, how to reset the "PWRLOS" notice on the display ?

I have the VHF board installed -- so, how does one direct select one of those higher frequencies ?

How has everyone been doing ?

I note these receivers still seem to fetch a pretty penny. No, mine is not for sale. :-)

Joe

112. Re: [draker8b] "PWRLOS"

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-05-07 13:45:54 UTC
From: Happy Home
Topic: 110 Message: 112

You know what they say, "If all else fails, read the instructions." ;-)

Thank you.

Now I need to read the rest of them.

On 5/6/2011 9:40 PM, bb cc wrote:
> reset the time
>
> ---
> *From:* joesmoe3us <t1@...>
> *To:* draker8b@yahoogroups.com
> *Sent:* Thu, May 5, 2011 6:33:06 PM
> *Subject:* [draker8b] "PWRLOS"
>
> O.k. was out of the country, long wire antenna broke, was not
> motivated until recent warm weather to climb on the roof to restore
> the antenna, and, plug in the radio -- works great.
>
> So, how to reset the "PWRLOS" notice on the display ?
>
> I have the VHF board installed -- so, how does one direct select one
> of those higher frequencies ?
>
> How has everyone been doing ?
>
> I note these receivers still seem to fetch a pretty penny. No, mine is
> not for sale. :-)
>
> Joe
>
>
>

113. Re: [draker8b] "PWRLOS"

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-05-19 22:15:36 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 110 Message: 113

On Fri, 06 May 2011 01:33:06 -0000, "joesmoe3us" <t1@...>
wrote in <ipvj4i+l2s9@...>:

>So, how to reset the "PWRLOS" notice on the display ?

Drake R8 Communications Receiver Email Mailing List FAQ
http://homepages.tig.com.au/~vk5vka/draklist.htm

You may find the article below of interest:

http://www.dl7maj.de/R8-Clock-Backup.pdf
☐New☐ backup for the internal clock of the Drake R8

The Drake R8 has a rather high power consumption when switched ☐OFF☐.
At AC-Operation from mains (230VAC), the ON-/OFF-power ist 26W(33VA) /
17W(22VA);at DC-Operation (13,8VDC), the ON-/OFF-current is 1,45A/
0,9A (!!).

The R8´s ON-/OFF-switch neither disconnects the power transformer nor
the external DCsupply.
The reason for this design is the internal clock, which would loose
information, when
switched off. C389 (1000 µF) serves as simple backup for the internal
clock for app. 15
minutes /1/. The task is now, to make this time longer.
The frequencies, modes, etc. are stored in a non-volatile memory and
need no backup; so we
can focus on C389. Look for note on page 6 regarding timer-function.
Solution:
The IC for the clock is a TC 8521 AP (U108). According to /2/, this IC
may be operated in a
backup mode with only max. app. 3 µA at Vcc of 2.5VDC.
Picture 1 Schematic of real time clock and new backup
Pictures 1 and 2 show the connection point for the backup-battery, it
is parallel to C389. The
battery-type is a Lithium-battery, 3V, 2000mAh in size ☐AA☐ (mignon),
but similar types
(3V) are also sufficient. Look for backup batteries with long lifetime
(=low self discharge).
2000mAh are sufficient for 76 years at 3µA! (Let´s continue our
discussion in 2085.....).
The diode for reverse current protection is a ☐simple☐ 1N4148. At a
current of 3µA, this diode
causes a voltage drop of only 0,38V due to the exponential
U/I-characteristic.
Note: The commonly stated 0,6V for Si-Diodes are only valid for

currents up to several
100mA´s.
DL7MAJ, July 20th , Dec. 30th, 2009
2 of (7)
Picture 2 Synthesizer and Microprozessor Board Layout
Another topic is C389 itself. Such capacitors have a leakage current, which has to be
considered. I´ve measured a leakage current of 0,05µA to 0,1µA (original C389, desoldered);
this value may get worse with the years by aging.
Alternatively I´ve taken a new 10µF/25V electrolytic cap; it had app. 0,015µA.
But the best results had a tantalum cap (0,47µF/25V) with <<0,001µA(!); that was the limit of
my Ammeter.
Therefore, i decided to replace the original C389 (1000µF) by a tantalum-cap (0,47µF/25V).
I had no problems with ripple, peaks or other noise on the supply after the modification.
!! VERY IMPORTANT !!
When soldering at the connection point C389, there is a danger to destroy the IC U108.
It´s necessary to use a grounded soldering tool, which is connected to R8´s ground (chassis).
But before starting soldering, C389 has to be discharged!
☐ Remove R8 from mains and external DC-supply
☐ Place R8 with bottom up and remove bottom cover (picture 3)
☐ Connect chassis of R8 to ground
☐ Remove Synthesizer/Microprocessorboard, unplug some connectors (picture 3)
☐ Connect ground of the soldering tool with the chassis of the R8 (both must have the same ground-potential!)
☐ Discharge C389 with a resistor of some 100 Ohms for some seconds
DL7MAJ, July 20th , Dec. 30th, 2009
3 of (7)
☐ Check voltage across C389. If there are still more than 100mV, discharge C389 and check
voltage again
☐ Desolder C389
☐ Replace C389 by a tantalum-cap (0,47µF/25V) Observe polarity!! (picture 4)
☐ Solder diode´s cathode to C389 (picture 5)
☐ Isolate plus- and minus-wires with heat shrink tubes (picture 6)
☐ Solder battery onto a small experimental board strip, look for good isolation to ground.
☐ Use the hole for the (hopefully not existing) VHF-converter to install the battery with a
screw (picture 7)
☐ Fix the other end of the board with some glue

☐ FIRST Solder BATTERIE´s PLUS to the diode´s anode *) red wire
☐ THEN Solder BATTERIE´s MINUS to ground *) black wire
☐ Remove ground/s; replace Synthesizer/Microprocessorboard, plug in all connectors
☐ Ready !
*) If not using this sequence you will shorten the battery via the grounded soldering tool when
touching the plus pole.
Result:
The measured backup current, supplied by the backup-battery is 2,4µA
Picture 3 Location of C389

Picture 4 C389 (after all work is done)
Picture 5 Soldered Diode
Note for alignment of the clock:
The alignment /3/ of the clock (C 402) should be done in the backup-mode, because the
oscillators frequency depends a little bit upon the supply-voltage /2/.

Picture 6 Wires and heat shrink tubes
Picture 7 Backup-battery (at the spare place for the VHF-converter)

Additional power switch
With this modification, the R8 may be disconnected from AC- and/or DC-supply. The display
gets dark of course, but the clock is still operating.
Note:
When disconnected from mains and/or external DC-supply, the timer-function won´t
operate ☐ even with this new Backup-battery.
Disconnecting from mains (AC) can be done by unplugging; alternatively an external power
switch can be installed in the power cord.
Both solutions are not good for me, because i hate to crawl under my station desk.
So i decided to install a power switch into the R8 at the rear side nearby the power cord
(pictures 8, 9 and 10), which can be actuated from the front ☐ as long as no further equipment
is on top of the R8.
Due to the rating of the small switch, two switched contacts are in series to improve the
voltage isolating level. My mains is (measured) 235VAC, one contact is rated up to 230VAC.
Picture 8 Installation of new AC-Power switch

If you use a DC-supply (car batterie, solar cells, etc...), the best
is to unplug the R8.
A DC-switch would need a rating of 13VDC at 2A.
DL7MAJ, July 20th , Dec. 30th, 2009
7 of (7)
Picture 9 New AC-Power switch: two switched contacts in series
Picture 10 View from rear side
/1/ Owners manual Drake R8
/2/ Datasheet TC8521AP, Toshiba (look for tc8521ap in the internet)
/3/ Servicemanual Drake R8
If you want to contact the author:
Stefan Steger, DL7MAJ, eMail: dl7maj@...
Homepage: www.dl7maj.de
.-.-.

114. How Do You Tune The International Shortwave Broadcast Bands With Your Drake R8B?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-08-07 16:38:56 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 114 Message: 114

How Do You Tune The International Shortwave Broadcast Bands
With Your Drake R8B?

I'd like to present the tuning method I invariably employ to dig difficult AM international broadcast stations out of the noise. (This tuning technique may be discussed elsewhere;I haven't researched it.)

Reception of an AM station between one and two 'S' units above the ambient noise level can best be accomplished with these settings:

Tune: Station center frequency (X.5)

Mode: LSB

Bandwidth: 2.3

Passband Offset: Adjust for optimal tone and clarity.

Notch: Adjust for optimal clarity.

Tone: Adjust to your personal/individual audio response curve.

The Passband Offset control is extraordinarily sensitive; that is, a significant affect on audio character is effected with a very small change in the position of the control knob, less than a degree of rotation.

Adjustment of the Notch control is similarly sensitive, but in a different way from the Passband Offset control; The narrow band of 'notched' audio frequencies diminished in volume by the notch is moved relative to the 20 to 20,000 KHz audio spectrum as the knob is rotated. Exact positioning of this steep-skirted null point notch is crucial to its effective use to overcome noise interference, most notably an audio heterodyne note caused by a station broadcasting on a closely adjacent radio frequency to that being tuned.

It is surprising how well this tuning technique is able to turn an unreadable station into a listenable station.

Comments, suggestions, and the experience of other Drake R8B users is invited.

115. Re: [draker8b] How Do You Tune The International Shortwave Broadcast Bands With Your Drake R8B?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-08-07 20:22:22 UTC
From: Happy Home
Topic: 114 Message: 115

Been so quiet -- much appreciated. I don't have anything to add -- will try it.

Thank you.

Paul

On 8/7/2011 12:38 PM, Larry Dighera wrote:
>
>
> How Do You Tune The International Shortwave Broadcast Bands
> With Your Drake R8B?
>
> I'd like to present the tuning method I invariably employ to dig
> difficult AM international broadcast stations out of the noise. (This
> tuning technique may be discussed elsewhere;I haven't researched it.)
>
> Reception of an AM station between one and two 'S' units above the
> ambient noise level can best be accomplished with these settings:
>
> Tune: Station center frequency (X.5)
>
> Mode: LSB
>
> Bandwidth: 2.3
>
> Passband Offset: Adjust for optimal tone and clarity.
>
> Notch: Adjust for optimal clarity.
>
> Tone: Adjust to your personal/individual audio response curve.
>
> The Passband Offset control is extraordinarily sensitive; that is, a
> significant affect on audio character is effected with a very small
> change in the position of the control knob, less than a degree of
> rotation.
>
> Adjustment of the Notch control is similarly sensitive, but in a
> different way from the Passband Offset control; The narrow band of
> 'notched' audio frequencies diminished in volume by the notch is moved
> relative to the 20 to 20,000 KHz audio spectrum as the knob is
> rotated. Exact positioning of this steep-skirted null point notch is
> crucial to its effective use to overcome noise interference, most
> notably an audio heterodyne note caused by a station broadcasting on a

> closely adjacent radio frequency to that being tuned.
>
> It is surprising how well this tuning technique is able to turn an
> unreadable station into a listenable station.
>
> Comments, suggestions, and the experience of other Drake R8B users is
> invited.
>
>

116. Re: [draker8b] How Do You Tune The International Shortwave Broadcast Bands With Your Drake R8B?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-08-08 23:24:19 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 114 Message: 116

Thanks for your message.

You'll notice that the Lower Sideband mode is used for AM reception in
lieu of the much-vaunted R8B synchronous detector.

If you try it, please post your thoughts.

On Sun, 07 Aug 2011 16:22:22 -0400, Happy Home <t1@...>
wrote in <4E3EF3FE.7020804@kent-home.net>:

>Been so quiet -- much appreciated. I don't have anything to add -- will
>try it.
>
>Thank you.
>
>Paul
>
>On 8/7/2011 12:38 PM, Larry Dighera wrote:
>>
>>
>> How Do You Tune The International Shortwave Broadcast Bands
>> With Your Drake R8B?
>>
>> I'd like to present the tuning method I invariably employ to dig
>> difficult AM international broadcast stations out of the noise. (This
>> tuning technique may be discussed elsewhere;I haven't researched it.)
>>
>> Reception of an AM station between one and two 'S' units above the
>> ambient noise level can best be accomplished with these settings:
>>
>> Tune: Station center frequency (X.5)
>>
>> Mode: LSB
>>
>> Bandwidth: 2.3
>>
>> Passband Offset: Adjust for optimal tone and clarity.
>>
>> Notch: Adjust for optimal clarity.
>>
>> Tone: Adjust to your personal/individual audio response curve.
>>
>> The Passband Offset control is extraordinarily sensitive; that is, a
>> significant affect on audio character is effected with a very small
>> change in the position of the control knob, less than a degree of

>> rotation.
>>
>> Adjustment of the Notch control is similarly sensitive, but in a
>> different way from the Passband Offset control; The narrow band of
>> 'notched' audio frequencies diminished in volume by the notch is moved
>> relative to the 20 to 20,000 KHz audio spectrum as the knob is
>> rotated. Exact positioning of this steep-skirted null point notch is
>> crucial to its effective use to overcome noise interference, most
>> notably an audio heterodyne note caused by a station broadcasting on a
>> closely adjacent radio frequency to that being tuned.
>>
>> It is surprising how well this tuning technique is able to turn an
>> unreadable station into a listenable station.
>>
>> Comments, suggestions, and the experience of other Drake R8B users is
>> invited.
>>
>>

117. Anyone done any work on optical encoder or later mechanical encoder, R8--R8B?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-12-29 22:02:20 UTC
From: JackS
Topic: 117 Message: 117

If you have done work on either encoder, I would like to hear what you have done. Has anyone converted mechanical encoder to optical encoder?

118. Re: [draker8b] Anyone done any work on optical encoder or later mechanical encoder, R8--R8B?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2011-12-30 16:56:22 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 117 Message: 118

On Thu, 29 Dec 2011 22:02:20 -0000, "JackS"
<jsullivan10512000@...> wrote in <jdio1c+pacb@...>:

>If you have done work on either encoder, I would like to hear what you have done.
>Has anyone converted mechanical encoder to optical encoder?

Here's what I found with a Google search using the terms "drake
encoder clean" (I purchased a spare encoder from Drake before they ran
out of stock):

---
http://www.radiobanter.com/showthread.php?t=160983
No Soldering Drake SW2 Rotary Encoder Repair

Real easy. Remove the front panel from upper and lower PC boards,
loudspeaker, and ground leads. Carefully bend 4 tabs on back of
encoder, carefully pull back case and contact wheel straight out.
Clean contacts with Q tip soaked in favorite cleaner (Deoxit Gold).
Watch out for stray cotton fibers. Be careful not to get solvent on
"bearing" (glob of grease on shaft ends-no need to mess with that side
of things at all.

Also carefully clean silver springy fingers (3 down and one up) with
contact cleaner. Then I give a short spritz of Deoxit Gold on the
wheel face and put it all back together. Deoxit Gold will foam like
hydrogen peroxide when it contacts greasy oxides. This in normal.

So far so good. Works like brand new. Now it's time to take apart the
remote.

---

http://www.radiointel.com/R8.htm
FROM REC.RADIO.SHORTWAVE
From: RadioGuy (nospam@...)
Subject: Drake R8B --- Encoder Repair Notes
Newsgroups: rec.radio.shortwave
Date: 2003-01-22 16:18:05 PST

I finally got around to fixing the encoder problem (erratic tuning)
that's been bothering me for awhile.

Removal of the encoder board from the front panel was fairly
straightforward; just time consuming. The inner and outer panel came
apart surprisingly easy and making the repair somewhat enjoyable;
re-assembly was just as easy.

My first attempt was to unsolder the encoder from the board. However, like many of you, I bent back the tabs of the encoder with a small screwdriver and pulled it apart for servicing. Even though I had a replacement encoder it was difficult to unsolder the part from the board---plated through holes! It might be that replacement of the entire encoder would be required at some later date anyway.

As I had mentioned in a previous post, I was interested in learning why the encoder failed. After removal of the encoder wheel from the body of the encoder I examined the contact surfaces under stereo microscope (Leica SZ-4) at 40X magnification. I could plainly see what appeared to be normal wear patterns in the conductive surfaces that matched the position of the contact fingers in the mating part.

The contact fingers were examined next. Using similar magnification and upon carefully rotation of the part, I could plainly see that the contact points were worn through their silver plating and well into the brass base metal. The contact surfaces were burnished to a bright, mirror finish. Furthermore, the first two contact points were clean with a clear grease
residue while the third inner contact (electrical common?) had a dark brown/black greasy residue about its contact surface.

With the realization that I rarely used the tuning knob I wanted to understand why the wear on the contact fingers seemed, in my opinion, excessive. I observed that the third contact finger (electrical common?), the one with the dark residue, was in continuous electrical contact with the wheel more so than the other two fingers that rode on the 'spokes' of the wheel. Furthermore, the surface that the contact was moving against had a rough surface consisting of striated tooling marks with uniform depth and spacing that suggested the result of rough polishing or grinding. Close study of the wear patterns on the wheel clearly revealed hills and valleys and that the hills were the surfaces that had been worn into the wheel by that contact finger but had not yet reached the depth of the valleys. It was this observation that led me to think that the brown/black residue on this particular contact was an accumulation of silver and brass particulate
from the contact finger and wheel that had oxidized and mixed with the grease. The rough surface of the wheel was simply acting as an abrasive surface and was wearing the contact points.

I thought I would reuse the old encoder and see how long it would last after a bit of maintenance. I cleaned the encoder with electrical solvent cleaner and with the help of a very fine brush I cleaned the contact fingers as well. The parts were carefully blown dry then re-examined under the scope and were found clean. A small drop of DeoxIT contact cleaner was placed on the wheel surfaces then worked by pressing the assembly together and rotating the wheel against the contacts.

There was another problem with the encoder that I need to take care of as well. Ever since I got this receiver I had been bothered by the

viscous, squishy feel of the tuning knob. While I had the encoder opened I carefully cleaned it of all grease with electrical cleaner. The designers of the encoder had used a relatively large quantity of grease to gain the damping action that had bothered me. On the reverse side of the wheel (shaft end) the grease was easily removed with a probe and the remainder was readily soluble in the electrical solvent. However, before re-assembly, I placed a very light film of fine grease on the shaft. After the front panel was replaced I placed a small felt washer on the encoder shaft. The knob was positioned against the felt washer to get the desired feel. Now the knob turns with a dry, positive, precise, clean feel with no wobble or endplay. Furthermore, I replaced the R8B knob with that of the R8---the aesthetic enhancement that the old R8 knob adds to the receiver is remarkable!

While the front panel was detached from the chassis, I also removed all controls and added a drop of DeoxIT into them and worked it in. The tone control was beginning to get scratchy and I've had a problem with the volume control in the past.

In the process of working on the front panel I learned how the readouts are backlit---just a bunch of green LED's on a circuit board. I have always been upset by the lime-green color of the display. Drake had been known for decades for their use of a distinctive blue for illuminating the meter and dial displays of their older equipment and I liked it very much. I guess when the receiver was designed there weren't any blue or white LED's and those that are available now are expensive. I intend to experiment with blue and white LED's as well as blue filters. The closest filter color I had on hand to match the Drake blue on my vintage pieces of Drake gear is the blue tab on 3-ring binder notebook separators or hanging file tabs. I'll take a tab to the art supply shop and see if I can match it.

The receiver has been re-assembled and everything is working properly; tuning is as it should be. It will be interesting to see how long the repaired encoder lasts. I had the encoder replaced under warranty repair by Drake twice before.

In summary; apparently the encoder failed as a result of intermittent electrical contact resulting from dirty contact surfaces. Others have suggested contact bounce and poor electrical design. My personal opinion, although based on this one example and comments from others, suggests that the encoder is poorly designed or not able to take the continuous wear and tear it experiences in its application as a main tuning control for a radio receiver. Quite possibly it should be replaced with a part more suited to the task.

R.

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http://www.radiobanter.com/showthread.php?t=156070
Drake R8B Tuning Technique Saves Encoder Wear

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http://www.radiobanter.com/showthread.php?t=91288
Replacing Drake R8B mechanical encoder with optical

Figure about 30 to 100 dollars for a good encoder.
In order to pull this off, you need to remove the pullup resistors
from the input lines to the uP. Next, you need to connect a 5VDC
source to the power connection on the optical encoder, and also
remove any steering diodes from the A and B channel lines. After this
is done, connect the appropriate outputs of the encoder to the uP
inputs and you are set to go. Figure about an hour job.

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http://www.radiobanter.com/showthread.php?t=43504

July 2nd 04, 07:47 AM

If you can solder well and know how to disassemble electronic
equipment, the encoder replacement is quite easy. It starts with
removing all the knobs, top/bottom covers, and the front (black)
panel. Then you remove the nut that holds the encoder shaft in the
hole of the chassis. Unplug the encoder wiring harness from the PC
board and remove the encoder assembly through the bottom of the
chassis.

I suggest you order just the encoder without the PC board. It's about
half the price of the original assembly. As I said, the PC board is
no longer necessary. The new part # is 3260012. The price was $11.51
about three years ago. You will have to remove the wiring harness
from the old encoder PC board and solder the three wires to the
matching terminals on the new encoder. Follow the circuit traces on
the old encoder PC board to determine where each wire goes on the new
encoder terminals.

There was a thread on this group more than a year ago where we
discussed why this encoder fails. Myself and another contributor came
to the conclusion that the factory lubricant (grease) causes the
encoder contacts to become less conductive, possibly oxidized. I
disassembled an R8B encoder which was acting like yours,
cleaned/degreased it and relubed it with a synthetic grease. It's
been working fine for several years now. How old is your R8B?

When you re-assemble the radio make sure you get the connectors back
in the proper spots, and be very careful with the display.

Steve
Holland, MI
Drake R7, R8 and R8B

http://www.iserv.net/~n8kdv/dxpage.htm

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http://rldrake.com/faqs-radio.php
Question:

I have the original R-8 receiver and need a new tuning encoder. Can you supply one?

Answer:
We no longer stock the tuning encoder for the R-8 receiver. The encoder can be purchased through e-sonic, http://www.e-sonic.com and digi-key, http://digikey.com. The part number is ENA1J-B28-L00128.

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http://homepages.tig.com.au/~vk5vka/draklist.htm
Can my Drake R8A/B Tuning knob be improved? It's too light!

The knob can be removed by pulling it towards you firmly. Some ways of making it heavier include the following.

Fill the hollow back of the R8A/B knob with a mixture of epoxy (slow curing) and steel ball bearing's. It creates a smoother feel because of the increased mass/momentum. This doesn't put any significant stress on the rotary encoder because it's supported at the rear (behind the encoder wheel) in addition to the shaft in front. I haven't noticed any wear/looseness since I weighted the knob several years ago.

Another suggestion includes using the tuning knob from an Icom IC-R72 which apparently fits very well and is ideally weighted.

The frequency hops/jumps on my R8B when using Main Tuning knob! Is there a fix for this?

The problem is very likely the tuning encoder wheel which is on the opposite end of the tuning knob shaft inside the front panel. The only reliable way to fix this is to replace the encoder. It is possible to clean it with some electronic spray like "DeOxIt" but it's very difficult to get the spray inside the encoder without taking it apart and (you guessed it) it's not made to be disassembled.

It's also possible that the contact "fingers" of the encoder wheel assembly have become misaligned. In that case cleaning won't correct the problem. You can order just the encoder wheel assembly without it's PC board, which is not really needed. The part # is 3260012. It costs about $US12.00. Contact the Drake service department for it. Installing the new encoder assembly is not too difficult if you know how to solder well and are not timid about removing the covers and front panel of the radio.

It begins with removing all of the front panel knobs. The small ones have set screws. The big tuning knob pulls off. Remove the top and bottom covers of the radio along with the front (black) panel. This exposes the inner front chassis panel. Unscrew the hex nut that holds the tuning shaft/encoder assembly to the front chassis. This will allow you to remove the encoder with it's PC board from the rear of the front chassis. You must also unplug the three wire connector that

runs from the encoder PC board to one of the radio's main PC boards.

Now you're ready to prepare the new encoder for installation. Since you're not going to use the old encoder PC board, you must unsolder the three wires from that board and resolder them to the three matching terminals of the new encoder assembly which doesn't have a PC board. Put the new encoder shaft through the front chassis hole where the old one was and secure it with the hex nut. Plug the encoder wiring connector back on the main PC board. Reinstall the front (black) panel, top and bottom covers and all the knobs.

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/draker8/message/967
Drake SW8 Encoder Replacement Notes
hope you cleaned the key-pad while you had it open. I'm on my third SW8 here. this one is a keeper. no key-pad bounce, and the encoder is good, so far. had to replace the encoder on my SW2, it wasn't too bad. you need to get yourself a good iron. I also have an R8, R8A and R8B in my collection. all were gotten new, and used very little. I keep my collection bagged and covered. and am a non-smoking house here. the encoder on the R8B and the SW8 are a little cheezie. some one at Drake, can't remember who, said they had to go with that encoder, because the one from the R8 was no longer made. I don't know about that. the palstar R30 has a good one in it. my AOR7030+ has a questionable encoder in it. I've not had trouble with my 7030, a few others have, and AOR seems to have worked it out. I also have a Lowe collection here. Lowes is gone, and a few post on the Lowes yahoo board, mention decoder trouble. people post on the Kenwood R5000 yahoo board about keyboard bounce; once again I have been lucky with my R5K. what I'm saying is, even with care, most high end desktops all seem to have trouble sooner or later. all we can do is hope for the best. I have read on the web about a few guys, rebuilding or cleaning decoders. don't know if I would want to do this or not. the-Dave's radio page talks about doing this. hope I never have to open one up. sorry for the long/ rambling post, but this is a sore spot with me. I do worry about getting parts for a lot of my collection here. and, as I get closer to my retirement, I want to be able to listen, not repair.
Good DX!
Drifter...

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/draker8/message/966
Just finished up doing the encoder replacement on my SW8. Yup, it uses the same el-cheapo encoder as the R8B. I'd like to say it was a lot of fun, but not for me. Disassembly is "not bad", and well thought out, but somewhat tedious. I'd taken an older SW8 apart before to clean the display board. Removing the worn encoder from the board was dreadful. Lots of heat needed, and really fiddly. Mind you, I don't have the best soldering equipment. Happily, all worked out fine, but I won't want to do it again for a while.

Chris VE6RDC

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119. Fwd: R.L. Drake Auction

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2012-08-20 11:50:18 UTC
From: Dan Ferguson
Topic: 119 Message: 119

"Discontinuing Dayton Operations. Public Auction - Electronic Manufacturing Facility"

http://www.thompsonauctioneers.com/R-L-Drake-Holdings-LLC-a186041.php

Karl Forth sent me this link.

(Kevin Mikell in NASWA Yahoo Group)

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Dan Ferguson
North American Shortwave Assn: http://www.naswa.net
A12 Combined SWBC skeds last updated August 20 at 1100 GMT:
http://www.hfskeds.com/skeds/
Donations: If you like my schedule files buy me a beer,
drink it for me, then tell me how much I enjoyed it.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shortwave-radio
Live swbc dx chat: #swl on Starchat.net IRC

"He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance."

120. Windows 7 and FineWire

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2012-08-27 22:06:55 UTC
From: leo
Topic: 120 Message: 120

Thanks to whoever asked about Windows 7 and FineWire control program,
and to all that told us how to get it to work I know have it working.
My question will be is there a data base on the Internent that can be
downloaded to it?. I tryed to copy and past but no luck.
Thanks leo

121. Drake SW2 Service Techs?

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2013-06-29 22:25:36 UTC
From: luminositystudios
Topic: 121 Message: 121

My beloved SW2 went deaf to incoming signals from the antenna input. The encoder was working fine from the dial and the remote control so I expect that is not the problem. Having no service manual or schematics and Drake not offering any service anymore I'm at a dead end. Anyone have any info on any techs who will work on this rig or any links to the technical info?
Tnx de Barry- N1QWA / Vermont

122. Antenna for R8B

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2014-01-09 01:48:53 UTC
From: <emann9@...>
Topic: 122 Message: 122

Does anyone have any suggestions for a reasonably priced indoor antenna for the R8B?

Thans
Eric

123. New member

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2014-01-22 18:28:44 UTC
From: Glenn Blum
Topic: 123 Message: 123

Good afternoon,
New member here. I have a R8B with vhf unit. Mainly using mine for shortwave and operating it through SWLog radio control. I do have a issue with the encoder but its not that bad. Hope to hear from others about their experiences.
Glenn
Kd5dga

124. RE: New member

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2014-01-22 23:56:26 UTC
From: <t1@...>
Topic: 123 Message: 124

I have no problems with mine, that I know of. Thinking about problems though (much traffic on Sony SW-77 and other models for example and available repair resources since Sony no longer supports them), and seeing that Drake has dropped the R8B from supported models on their site, it would be useful here if one or more folk might offer repair resources.

Thank you.

And welcome Glenn.

125. RE: [draker8b] RE: New member

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2014-01-23 00:07:14 UTC
From: Glenn Blum
Topic: 123 Message: 125

I agree with repair support. Right now its the best radio I have. I also have a Icom PCR1000.
Glenn

-----Original Message-----
From: "t1@...t" <t1@...>
Sent: ☐1/☐22/☐2014 5:56 PM
To: "draker8b@yahoogroups.com" <draker8b@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [draker8b] RE: New member

I have no problems with mine, that I know of. Thinking about problems though (much traffic on Sony SW-77 and other models for example and available repair resources since Sony no longer supports them), and seeing that Drake has dropped the R8B from supported models on their site, it would be useful here if one or more folk might offer repair resources.

Thank you.

And welcome Glenn.

[The entire original message is not included.]

126. Re: Antenna for R8B

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2015-09-14 01:07:19 UTC
From: joe_redshirt@...
Topic: 122 Message: 126

Hi Eric,

Sorry for the Looong delay in getting back to you. Sadly, not much activity in this group anymore.

I have had good luck using an MFJ-1020C as an indoor antenna:

http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-1020C
http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-1020C

You can buy new for <US$100, and even cheaper used on eBay. This makes a great indoor antenna, and there is a low noise Here are some tips for using the 1020c as an active indoor antenna/tunable antenna preselector:

- get rid of the whip antenna (it unscrews) as it is pretty worthless. Connect a random length wire antenna to the SO-238 input jack in the back of the 1020C. A PL-259 plug is used for this, with the antenna soldered or crimped to the center pin of the plug.

- Make the random wire antenna as long as possible. I use a white wire to match the walls of my room (at my XYL's request) and run it around the room using the upper window and door frames as supports for the wire. 30-75 feet is good enough.

- Be sure to attach the ground wire to the ground wing nut on the back of the 1020C, and attach to a good ground like a water pipe or copper baseboard heating pipe. I use a large alligator clip to attach to the 1/2" pipe, but there are specific pipe ground clamps that can be used as well.

- You will need a PL-259/PL-259 cable to connect the 1020C output to the R8B antenna input. Keep the cable as short as possible, but long enough so that you can conveniently operate the 1020C and R8B at the same time.

Hope this helps.

73's,
Joe

---In draker8b@yahoogroups.com, <emann9@...> wrote :

Does anyone have any suggestions for a reasonably priced indoor antenna for the R8B?

Thans
Eric

127. Re: Antenna for R8B

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2015-09-14 01:14:13 UTC
From: t1@...
Topic: 122 Message: 127

Thank you for an excellent recommendation, with details.

My R8B is still running.

Paul

128. drake r8b key-pad

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2017-01-22 21:22:52 UTC
From: kg6wni@...
Topic: 128 Message: 128

My R8b S.S.#OF12940008 has been working good for years. But lately the key-pad numbers 0-9 and the F key has been not been working. I'm thinking about taking it apart and spraying De-Ox-Id contact cleaner on them. Anyone have any thoughts about this?.
Thanks Leo

129. Re: drake r8b key-pad

Yahoo group: draker8b
Date: 2017-01-26 21:15:00 UTC
From: kg6wni@...
Topic: 128 Message: 129

I have found the problem with my Drake's key pad not working.
I live in Southern California my radio is in my garage. Lately it has been getting down to the low 50'sF
I now that this is not cold for some of you but today I put the Drake out in the sun for a few hours
and now it is working good.
Just like me. The older we get the more we dislike the cold.
Leo